

## REPORT

ON

## NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 18th March 1905.

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## ASSAM PAPERS.

Nil.



## I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

'The *Soltan* [Calcutta] of the 10th March has the following :—

England in Arabia.

Our veteran Arabic contemporary, the *Alloya*, says that a survey of the present condition of Arabia has made it quite clear to the Egyptians that the ultimate design of England is to extend her influence in Arabia, and to establish a Musalman *raj* in that country under her control.

2. The *Ratnakar* [Asansol] of the 11th March writes :—

England and Russia.

Although the present war has inflicted many losses on Russia, it would be wrong to conclude that all her power is wholly gone. We say it would be wrong, because, if it were true, then a powerful Government like the British would not have stood in such awe of Russia. Of course it is not that Russia has not been partially crippled by her present losses. But the consequent weakening is almost unworthy of consideration when we remember her enormous military resources. Further, there is the consideration that if Russia has been partially crippled, so also has been England as the result of the late Boer war. Russia knows this very well. And many are of opinion that the weakening of Russia in the present war has been less than that of England in the Boer war. Lastly, Russia is strong in the friendship of two such Powers as France and Germany, with whom England is not on the best of terms.

*SOLTAN*,  
March 10th, 1905.

*RATNAKAR*,  
March 11th, 1905.

## II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

## (a)—Police.

3. The *Manbhum* [Purulia] of the 7th March reports on the authority of a local correspondent the killing of a great number of cows by evil-intentioned persons in Raghunathpur.

Killing of cows in Manbhum.

*MANBHUM*,  
March 7th, 1905.

4. The *Rangpur Vartavaha* [Rangpur] of the 10th March charges the Indian police with (1) corruption, (2) oppression, (3) theft, (4) drunkenness, (5) visiting prostitutes, (6) man-slaughter, (7) outrages on females, (8) getting up false cases, (9) making false entries in their diaries, and (10) ignorance and meanness.

The Indian police.

*RANGPUR  
VARTAVAHA*,  
March 10th, 1905.

5. The *Nava Yug* [Calcutta] of the 11th March writes :—

Chaukidari reform.

The party-feeling to which the election of the Presidents of the panchayets under the new scheme of reform is already giving rise does not bode good for the future. The other day Lord Curzon in his Convocation address expressed the opinion that in India those who claim to speak on behalf of the public do not always represent the public. Do not the incidents which are already happening in connection with the election of the panchayets prove the truth of Lord Curzon's opinion?

*NAVA YUG*,  
March 11th, 1905.

6. The *Rangpur Vartavaha* [Rangpur] of the 10th March complains that the murder which took place some time ago in a house of ill-fame at Nawabganj still remains untraced, and appeals to the local authorities to display greater vigilance in connection with this case. It is also complained that cases of murder have become, of late, very frequent in Rangpur town.

An undetected murder case in Rangpur.

*RANGPUR  
VARTAVAHA*,  
March 10th, 1905.

7. A correspondent of the *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 10th March complains that Babu Ananda Mohan Bose, a retired Deputy Magistrate of Faridpur, who has been entrusted with the duty of selecting the Presidents of the panchayets after consultation with the villagers, under Mr. Savage's new scheme of reform in the Dacca district, is betraying undue race partiality. The following specific instances are given—

A complaint.

*MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR*,  
March 10th, 1905.

- (1) In union No. 10 in thana Nawabganj, Ananda Babu has selected a retired Sub-Inspector of Police named Sasanka Babu. This officer was twice degraded in the course of his service and is now in possession of a pension of only Rs. 6-8 a month. It is alleged that a better choice would have been Abdul Rashid Chowdhury, an English-educated Musalman zamindar of village Raipara, a man



who got 400 votes in support of his candidature, but whose claims were ignored by Ananda Babu from race bias.

(2) Another similar case is that of Shamsul Huq Khan, a zamindar of Azizpur, who got about 1,000 votes, but who, it is alleged, was set aside by Ananda Babu in favour of a less qualified Hindu.

(3) In village Bandhura of the same thana, Syed Ali Akbar, a Musalman, got about 300 votes, but an uneducated native Christian named Minkha has had the preference.

SOLTAN,  
March 10th, 1905.

Allegations against the Sherpur zamindars.

8. A correspondent of the *Soltan* [Calcutta] of the 10th March complains of the oppressive conduct of the Hindu zamindars of Sherpur in refusing to permit the Musalmans of that place to slaughter cows for sacrifice on the occasion of the *Id-uz-zuha* festival. Reference is also made to a case in which Rai Radhaballabh Chowdhury Bahadur, a distinguished zamindar of that place, refused to permit of repairs being undertaken to a mosque, known as Baki Miyan's Masjid, situated just in front of his house in the western part of Sherpur town, on the ground that the presence of masons and work-people on the roof of that masjid, which would be necessitated during the repairs, would interfere with the privacy of his *zenana*.

RATNAKAR,  
March 11th, 1905.

A case of highway robbery in Raniganj.

9. The *Ratnakar* [Asansol] of the 11th March reports that on the 15th February last, a collecting *gomasta* of the zamindari *cutcherry* of Maharaja Manindra Chandra Nandi at village Athora, in the Raniganj subdivision, by name Akhoy Ram Ganguly, was attacked by a party of dacoits when on his way home with some money on his person. No portion of the money was lost, but the *gomasta* received serious wounds on his person before the villagers could come to his rescue. The special attention of the local police is drawn to this case.

BASUMATI,  
March 11th, 1905.

Crime in a village in the Pabna district.

10. A correspondent of the *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 11th March complains of the great prevalence of crime and *budmashi* in the Sankhia village in the Pabna district. Four thefts with house-breaking were committed, and two young women were abducted during the last month. The police is useless. Some time ago a Musalman decamped with Rs. 1,000 secured by him under the pretence of *duna* game.

SAMVAD PRABHAKAR,  
March 14th, 1905

A missionary paper.

11. The *Samvad Prabhakar* [Calcutta] of the 14th March says that many objectionable articles are published in the missionary paper *Epiphany*. It is, for instance, said in the paper that plague is a visitation on India for her sins. The attention of the authorities should be directed to the matter for the sake of the preservation of peace in the country.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

KHULNAVASI,  
March 4th, 1905.

An allegation against a Munsif.

12. A correspondent writing to the *Khulnavasi* [Khulna] of the 4th March complains that Babu Debendra Nath Sarkar, the 3rd Munsif of Satkhira, took an active part in getting up subscriptions for certain dancing and *jatra* parties which were recently held at that town. It is alleged that something was collected even from the court peons, whose pay does not exceed seven or eight rupees a month.

CHARU MIHIR,  
March 7th, 1905.

Mutation of names in Mymensingh.

13. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 7th March complains that in Mymensingh persons are being punished with fines for not having got the mutation of their names effected in time, although they have as a matter of fact already done so. An appeal is made to the local Collector for an inquiry into this matter.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,  
March 10th, 1905.

Alleged institution of false cases in the Kushtia Courts.

14. A correspondent writing to the *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 10th March complains that the Hindu community of village Chandpur, in thana Kamarkhali in the Kushtia subdivision of the Nadia district, have recently instituted a number of false cases in the Courts at Kushtia against their Musalman co-villagers in revenge for the latter having sacrificed cows on the occasion of the last *Bakr-Id* festival. It is further alleged that this is being



done with the connivance if not actual co-operation of the local police, who are Hindus to a man. The Musalman defendants could get no Hindu pleader to take up their case in the Kushtia Courts. The Musalman mukhtar, Munshi Fuzlar Rahman, who took up their case, was requested by his Hindu colleagues to throw up his brief. A number of Musalman witnesses have been suborned by the Hindus to give false evidence. The attention of the Subdivisional Magistrate of Kushtia is drawn to these allegations.

15. The *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 10th March writes:—

A case against three tea-planters in Sylhet.

Two cloth-merchants of South Sylhet recently lodged a complaint in the Court of the local Sub-divisional Officer against three European tea-planters. It appears that the complainants had hired stalls for the sale of cloths at the local "Kali Ghat *méla*" and that the three accused also had gone to that *méla* as visitors. It is alleged that one of the accused forcibly opened bundles lying on the stall, took out some pieces of cloth, and had them carried away home by a coolie. The other two accused aided the first accused in committing this offence. The loss thus incurred by the complainants is said to amount to Rs. 275. After the usual preliminary police enquiry, the Court dismissed the complaint, recording an order to the effect that the complainants had no right to open stalls at that *méla* without permission, and that therefore it was they who had committed a serious offence. A judgment like this beats hollow even the proverbial *Kazi's* judgments of Musalman days.

SAMAY,  
March 10th, 1905.

(d)—Education.

16. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 7th March writes:—

The educational policy of Government.

The educational policy of Government is daily getting more and more involved with political considerations and is being gradually guided into increasingly narrow channels.

We notice a feeling of distrust underlying the present educational policy of Government. Government has not yet been able to enter into the aspirations and feelings of those natives of the country who have been moulded by the influence of Western education. Whether education strengthens or weakens the bonds of real loyalty is a question which is still unanswered in the opinion of Government. Want of education and the predominance of brute-force are inevitable cause and effect. Government itself is well aware how very irrepressible the lower classes of India are for want of education. The suspicion under the influence of which Government is seeking to restrict education is, we make bold to say, quite unfounded.

CHARU MIHIR,  
March 7th, 1905.

17. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 11th March says that Lord Curzon's

High education in India.

Government has become conspicuous for the great opposition which it has been offering to the spread of high education in the country—an opposition which has marked the British government of India since its very birth. In his Calcutta University Convocation speech of 1882 Lord Ripon showed the evil of officialising high education. But the powers that be are desiring to show that what was pointed out by Lord Ripon as evil is really good for India.

BASUMATI,  
March 11th, 1905.

18. Referring to the suggested plan of having the text-books for the

Text-books for rural schools in Bengal.

proposed rural schools in Bengal written in the different provincial dialects, the *Sri Sri Vishnu-Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 8th March writes:—

SRI SRI VISHNU  
PRIYA-O-ANANDA  
BAZAR PATRIKA,  
March 8th, 1905.

Troubles never come alone; when they do come, they come in succession upon each other. We Indians have practically nothing—we have neither dominion nor honour; the only thing left to us to speak of is our language. It seems as if we are about to lose even this possession. The adoption of the Government scheme would mean not only an obstacle to the improvement of the language, but certain destruction of our growing feeling of nationality. Assuming that Government is not actuated by any bad motive in making this proposal, to what can we attribute it? Nobody ever petitioned Government to recognize these dialects. Could not these books have been prepared in simple Bengali, with no Sanskrit words in it? Such books can surely be easily understood by the cultivating classes. And then, again, what can be the possible



justification for this plan of getting the books originally prepared in England? Is there any want of qualified men in our country? This question is a very serious one, and it is fraught with the worst consequences for our future.

**SANJIVANI,**  
March 9th, 1905.

19. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 9th March says:—

Text-books for rural schools.

We want union, they (the English) want separation. Not only the territory but the mind and the language also of Bengal are going to be divided. If the language is divided, feelings will be divided, and if feelings are divided, the mind also will be divided.

[Specimens are given, showing the ridiculous forms of language spoken in some of the districts of Bengal.]

In order to teach the district dialect the teacher must be an inhabitant of it. But what a fun would such Inspectors, Deputy Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors of Schools as are inhabitants of Calcutta or places near it, enjoy while inspecting rural schools? People have been astonished at the perversity of the authorities of the Education Department.

**BANGAVASI,**  
March 11th, 1905.

20. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 11th March says that the proposed change of lower primary text-books in Bengal has created quite a sensation in the country. The

Lower primary text-books.

present system of lower primary education is not without its faults. It often turns the head of the poor peasant boy and makes him hate the homely labours for which he is born. But still it has this one great advantage that it enables the villager to read the sacred books of his own community and the literature and newspapers of his country. But the proposed change would deprive him of even this advantage. In view of the gravity of the subject, Government is requested to extend the time allowed for expression of public opinion on it up to at least the 15th June next.

**BHARAT MITRA,**  
March 11th, 1905.

21. Commenting upon the recent Government Resolution on primary education, the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 11th March has the following:—

Lower primary text-books.

We wonder why the Government has spent so large a sum of money and Mr. Grierson a valuable portion of his life in such a useless work as a study of the dialects of this province. Every district, nay, every village, has a dialect of its own. But one should not wonder at anything in this world. The Government of Bengal is now going to teach the different dialects to the boys of this province, so that the people of every place may know the local dialect only and no other. The Committee who suggested this idea consisted of Mr. K. G. Gupta, the only Bengali member, who has been created by God to do under Government pressure what is suggested to him by Government, and another member was Mr. Pedler, the Director of Public Instruction. The novel scheme is an outcome of his brain. According to a contemporary, he is as learned in Bengali as he is in Chinese. Mr. Earle and the Commissioner of Chittagong were also members of this Committee. While Justice Sarada Charan Mitra is trying to advocate measures to make the people of India speak one and the same language and adopt one and the same alphabet and the advocates of the Hindi language are dreaming the happy dream of making Hindi in Nagri alphabet universally adopted in India, the Government is trying to divide the Bengali and Behari languages into several dialects. The story of building of the tower of Babel is quoted here, and it is remarked:—What sort of a ladder were the Bengalis constructing that the Government of Bengal has thought it necessary to bring about a confusion of tongues among them?

**HITAVARTA,**  
March 12th, 1905.

22. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 12th March has the following:—

Rural Primary Schools Resolution.

In the beginning of the British rule in India the Government gave education to the people of this country with the object of obtaining their help in the administration of the State. But that necessity no longer exists. The country has now so many whites, and so many offspring of a mixed union that a well-equipped Government institution with a mission school is all that is required for the purposes of administration, and the services of the pure blacks are no longer required, for having received higher education they are bothering the Government to give them employment and finding fault with every Government measure. They do not now like the high-handed doings of the



Government. It has opened their eyes. Lord Curzon himself is at his wits' end under their searching look. Even His Excellency has to be anxious to keep up his artificially created honour and dignity. It is for this reason that His Excellency has, under the cover of the Universities Bill, laid the axe at the root of high education. When Lord Curzon himself has taken the lead in this matter, why should the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal lag behind? His Honour has also resolved to make a name. If the Viceroy has cut the root of higher education, the Lieutenant-Governor has taken up the lower primary education for similar treatment. There can be nothing more mischievous to the community and its literature and the cause of general education. In no country are school-books written in local dialects. Every province has its own standard vernacular and the school text-books for that province are written in a simple style in that vernacular, and this is called education. Education does not mean the teaching of a subject only: instruction in literature also forms a part of it. If the object of the Government of Bengal is to give the children of the cultivating classes an education up to the lower primary standard only, the result will be that they will not be able to learn more than what they do from their parents, etc., or by working with them. Such students, being ignorant of the standard literature of their country, will not be able to go to, or have communication with, places beyond eight miles of their own village. In this way, the efforts which are now being made towards a national union will of itself come to an end. The local Hindi *Sahitya Sabha's* representation regarding this question should be duly considered before any decision is arrived at.

DAILY HITAVADI,  
March 14th, 1905.

The proposed scheme of rural education in Bengal.

23. The following is taken from a speech delivered by Babu Rabindra Nath Tagore and published in the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 14th March:—

The Committee appointed to consider the question of rural education in Bengal found the principal defects in the present system to be—

- (1) that the courses of instruction were too long, too advanced and too diversified; and
- (2) that the prescribed text-books were not written in simple language commonly used by the people.

There is nothing to object to in this finding of the Committee. Nor do the defects appear very difficult of removal. All that has to be done, according to the Committee, to remove them is to teach the agriculturist the geography of his village instead of an account of the whole universe and to make them read text-books written in easy, instead of Sanskritised, Bengali. Seeing that text-books are now manufactured at the Government factory and come out of the machine with all its juice extracted, it would not seem to be difficult to prepare such text-books. But the machinery proposed by the Committee for the preparation of the text-books is enough to excite laughter. What has to be prepared is easy text-books for cultivators, but the agency which is to prepare them is not at all simple. It is not difficult to see how very simple and natural will be the text-books which are mere translations of books originally written in English. It may be that the united efforts of all the Inspectors of Schools and of the Divisional Commissioners will bring to light powerful writers for this difficult work. And when over and above this nobody else than the Director himself is prepared to appoint such experts as he may deem fit, in order to approve of the text-books prepared by the above-mentioned worthy writers, it is not likely that the books will contain any defect. Still we may ask, why this round-about way of preparing text-books? Why this skilful devising of a tedious method by the Government when what it is anxious for is the making of easier text-books? What harm would be done if the text-books were originally composed in the vernacular? The truth is that it is for the Government's approval that the books will have to be originally written in English, for the Government is innocent of vernaculars. If the Government is ashamed of its incapacity to understand vernaculars, it ought to be ashamed of its deep distrust also. Would it not be possible, even in a wretched country like Bengal to find at least four more trustworthy Bengalis like the Hon'ble K. G. Gupta? Alas, is there no easy means available to the Government of this country to allay its suspicions?



The eleventh paragraph of the Government Resolution on the subject is a very small paragraph—the smallest, in fact, in the whole Resolution. But the deadly things of this world are generally found to be small. An arrow may be as long as you please, but it is its small head which is enough to pierce a man's heart.

In this small paragraph the Committee is reported to have considered it to be "a matter of great importance that the translations from the model English text-books should be prepared in a sufficient number of local vernaculars." "For instance," say the Committee, "in Bihar the translations should be made in at least three dialects, viz., Tirhutiya, Bhojpuri and Magadhi or Maithali, while in Bengal they should be translated into Northern, Eastern, and Central and Western Bengali at least."

It is thus seen that, in laying the foundation of education in Bengal, four Englishmen and a Bengali, who is under their influence, consider it a "matter of great importance" to divide the language of the province. The importance of a thing, however, varies according to the standpoint from which it is viewed. To a man who wishes to eat a fish by making it into soup, it is "a matter of great importance" that the fish should be cut up in four or five pieces. But from the standpoint of the fish it is "a matter of great importance" that it should remain entire with its head and tail complete. So, we do not feel much enthusiasm over what the Committee happens to consider of much importance.

The Committee says this will do the cultivators good. But it is not possible in this world to do good to everybody in every way. Good must be done with a due regard for circumstances. It is, for instance, not right so to improve the first storey of a house as may lead to a crack in the second storey within a short time. That is bad for the second storey and not also good for the first.

It is idle to point out that national unity principally rests on language, which is the highway for the interchange of thoughts. Diversity of language in India has split us up in a manner which was not possible even for mountains and deserts to do. If, after this, a strenuous attempt is made to create a division where there is no real division of language, to grind that in a mill which is already broken, what can we do? All that we can do is to hold off our blessings upon the British Government.

The times are bad. The present is like the summer evening. A small bit of a cloud just peeps over the north-western horizon, and all of a sudden, before men have had time to take precautions, a violent storm bursts out. This has happened repeatedly.

Besides, the new proposal is not a stray affair. The whole comet from its head to tail is gradually becoming distinctly visible in the sky of our destiny. It cannot be pooh-poohed as a dream or an illusion. It is evident that the Government considers it a matter of very great importance to split up our province.

For some time, the authorities have been remonstrating with us on this trait in our character which leads us to suspect others' motives. And we must confess to a growing inability to mend this fault. The least movement on Russia's part makes the English fear a Russian invasion of India. Wise men have given the English no end of assurances to the contrary, but nature never changes. The fall of a feather, the rustle of a leaf puts the English in fear of a Russian approach. And why? Because the English care much for this bit of an empire? We, too, in the same way, cannot help being careful where our interests are at stake. This is no peculiarity in the Eastern character, but is a trait common to the whole human race. Take a specific instance. Suppose the Tibetans refuse to believe in the righteous character of the 'peaceful mission' and attribute sinister motives to the soldiers who invaded their country. Will it be gracious for everybody to abuse them and their forefathers? We have heard a fowler abusing suspicious birds which have flown away on his approach, notwithstanding his light and cautious footfall. But if this man had not been a fowler he would, instead of abusing the birds, have congratulated them on their suspicious cautiousness, which was the means of saving their lives. It has also to be considered that if birds had not been suspicious and cautious, then even the man who was not a fowler would have felt tempted to hunt.



Whether you call it right or wrong, we cannot but admit that this small paragraph in the Resolution has excited our gravest suspicions. The tiny paws of the Committee, which have thus become visible out of the innocent sentiments contained in the India Government's Resolution of 1904, may have no mischievous object, but we do not feel reassured.

The authorities say that they are resolved to do good to the cultivators. May be that this is a sincere feeling on their part. And we could have easily believed in the sincerity of the object of the Committee, if we had found that in England also the cultivators were benefited in a similar manner. There is a proverb in English that "charity begins at home," and what makes us suspicious is the fact that in the present case we see more charity showered on others than on the people at home.

There are agriculturists in England, too, and school-books for them are written in language which is not the spoken language of every agriculturist. The following is an extract from what Mr. Robinson, a late Inspector of Schools in Assam, wrote in 1854 in condemning the proposal of the American missionaries to abolish Bengali in Assam schools:—

"Is there not some difference between this language (the language of the Lancashire peasantry quoted in a part of the protest) and that used by Johnson? The orthography appears different, the grammatical forms are different; the vocables themselves, as here given, it would be impossible to find in any dictionary of the English language. Call this a distinct language, the vernacular dialect of the people, having more points of difference from, than of resemblance to, the language usually known as the English, and proceed to prepare school-books in it?"

Mr. Robinson writes as if there can be no question as to what he says. And, really, up to this day no school-books have been prepared in the Lancashire dialect for the benefit of the Lancashire peasantry. It is clear, therefore, that though it is a "matter of great importance" to facilitate the spread of education among the English peasantry, it has been thought a "matter of greater importance" to maintain the unity of the English language everywhere, in England. In England, however, the question of how to benefit the peasantry and how to maintain the unity of the English language do not clash with each other, and no conflict of interests arises on the solution of the two questions. The idea of cutting up the language into four parts, in order to lighten by a little the labour of the peasant boys, does not, therefore, ever come into the united heads of any five wisacres in England. But in India, unfortunately for us, while the Government is bethinking itself of how to lighten the labour of the peasant boy, we are bethinking ourselves as to how, at the same time, to preserve the unity of the language. What ought to have been a single thought has been split up into two, and hence all the difficulty. Our anxiety would not have been so great, if the two parties, again, had been equally matched. But we know that the difference between a resolution of the Government and a resolution passed by us is as the difference between a substance and its shadow. The resolution of the Government is a veritable bolt from the heavens, whilst a resolution passed by us at our meeting is the mere mockery of stage thunder. But as a man in danger, though helpless, finds some relief in running about, so we, when danger is at our door, pass a resolution and make preparations of submitting a memorial.

A short while ago, the Viceroy said that West Bengal failed to grasp the thoughts of East Bengal. But there is nothing in the fear that has brought us together, which is unintelligible either to East or West Bengal. Our Western rulers, and even their trusted Bengali *confreres*, know better than even we do that a systematic perpetuation of the diversities of local dialects, whether this is done on the ground of mass education or any other ground, will deal a death-blow to the general weal of the country.

The modern spoken languages of India do not bear the same adventitious relation to the ancient language of the country that the modern European languages do to the Latin. The relation between Sanskrit and the modern Indian languages is the relation between a mother and her children. And *puran* readings, *kirtans*, *jatras* based on *puranic* legends, *kathakata*, *tarja* and *kavi*, all these which are designed for the instruction and amusement of the masses of this country probably help to spread a knowledge of the Sanskrit vocabulary among them. These are also the means which keep up a community of



knowledge and a community of sentiments between the learned people of the country and its masses. We are bound to believe when we are told that it has become absolutely necessary for the Government to cut off the masses, by artificial impediments, from that language which is now the repository of all knowledge and in which the respectable classes of the country perpetuate the result of their observation, thought and experiment. But we would refuse to believe that this is necessary for the good of the agriculturists, even if Mr. Krishna Govinda Gupta himself told us so. Though Mr. Gupta is a Bengali, and though in spite of that fact he has raised his knife to cut up the language of Bengal in four, and though he is as "honourable a man" as "Brutus" was, yet at the time of receiving a secret stab at his hand, his mother-language has cried out "Et tu Brute"!

DAILY HITAVADI,  
March 15th, 1905.

24. The following is a continuation of the same speech, and is published in the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 15th March :—

The proposed scheme of rural education in Bengal.

In 1854, when a controversy took place with the missionaries on the question of the introduction of the Bengali language into Assam, Mr. Francis Jenkins, Revenue Commissioner of Assam, wrote to the Government of Bengal :—

"If in England it is now a matter of deep regret, that we have so long neglected to teach our language to the Irish and Welsh, and thus make them one people with ourselves, it must be equally the policy and duty of the Government of India, by all means in its power, to assimilate the many nations, and if the early introduction of Bengali into the lately conquered province of Assam has been in any degree productive of binding this people closer to the people of our earlier acquired provinces, and of putting them on the same footing of civilization, I think the Government will have cause to rejoice at the chance or the necessity which led Messrs. Scott and Robertson to adopt that as the official language of our Courts."

A contrast between the policy of the British Government in India in 1854 and the policy of that Government now is enough to show where that Government stood in 1854 and where it has landed now. A Commissioner of that time took glory in the enunciation of a policy whose object was the unification of the various races of India. But now skill is being employed to divide provinces which are one.

The world's history contains proofs that the good secured by one party at the cost of another is not a good which lasts long. It is by means of the Indian Empire that the English are growing stronger. But if the English try to make India weaker, then this one-sided advantage will on no account last long, but will bring about its own destruction. The weakness of India—starving, disarmed and deprived of all her rights—will bring about the downfall of the British Empire.

But magnanimity in politics is possessed by few. Excess of greed, in particular, makes men very short-sighted. If a statesman keeps constantly meditating on the greedy and unnatural thought of always keeping India under the control of his people, it is certain that by so doing he will assuredly go on forgetting the means by which alone India can be kept long under such control. To keep for ever is an impossibility, a thing contrary to the law of nature. A fruit must of necessity fall from the tree. To make preparations to keep for ever by coercion is only to shorten the period for which it might have been otherwise possible to keep.

A policy like this is the policy of an age which does not overflow with sympathy for the weak, the oppressed and the unfortunate; when hungry Imperialism considers it magnanimity to spread its net of self-interest; when commerce has taken the place of valour and prowess; and when the narrow love for one's own country has ousted religion from its place.

But it depends entirely upon ourselves whether we should call this a hard time for us. Adversity makes men appreciate truth, and no nation ever had its deliverance without such appreciation. What one must do by one's own efforts can never be achieved by petitioning. What requires self-sacrifice cannot be accomplished by mere word of mouth. These are truths to teach which the Almighty Dispenser sends us adversity. So long as we do not learn them, so long shall we positively have to suffer misery after misery and to submit to insult after insult.



Can we say that it would be the best thing for us, if the English kept us under their rule for eternal time? Even if we said that, would the English be so silly as to believe us for a moment? The truth is that we must admit, and even if we did not admit it is a fact patent to all, that British rule is a necessity to us so long as we do not acquire the power to establish true and lasting unity among our various races; but that the necessity will cease the very day following that on which we have developed that power.

Our literatures are daily gaining life and strength, and are permeating the lower strata of society from the higher. Ideas which at one time were confined to the English-educated are now pervading the masses. Thus, the thoughts, the aims and the grievances of the whole country are coming to be one and the same and are becoming more and more pronounced. Things which at one time were foreign to our ideas and were merely learnt by rote by our school-boys are becoming things of our own country. Can we say that all this is not taking place? And even if we said that, would that throw dust in anybody's eyes? Will a burning flame nod and say that it is giving out no light?

What can we say, then, if, under the circumstances, the English wish to render stagnant and lifeless this powerful unifying tendency of an ever-diffusing literature by raising four huge dams? We can only complain that such action will gradually retard the progress of our language and take out all life from our literature. We pointed out, when the partition proposal was first broached, that such action on the part of the Government would increase and perpetuate the differences between us. But when a wood-cutter cuts down the branches of a tree, what answer does he make to the tree, when it complains that the wood-cutter's act would deprive it of its boughs? Surely the wood-cutter makes reply: "Do I not know that by cutting down the boughs, I am cutting them down? Am I a child?" Should one still rely upon reasoning and argumentation?

25. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 12th March says that owing to the abolition of the system of examinations for lower primary, upper primary and middle vernacular schools, there has been a falling off by forty per cent. in the number of pupils attending these schools, and that falling off still continues. The condition of the middle schools is also pitiable. Lord Curzon pretends to be the well-wisher of the Indians and a true patron of learning. But is this the result of his patronage?

HITAVARTA,  
March 12th, 1905.

26. Referring to the recently published Government Resolution on the Tata scheme, the *Medini Bandhan* [Midnapore] of the 8th March writes:—

MEDINI BANDHAN,  
March 8th, 1905.

Lord Curzon has in the present instance acted as one of our best well-wishers.

27. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 12th March thanks the Government of India for its slow sense of duty and liberality to the Research Institute of the late Mr. Tata of Bombay.

HITAVARTA,  
March 12th, 1905.

28. Referring to the rumour that a proposal is about to be made before the Calcutta University Senate which will have the effect of considerably stiffening the Entrance Examination of that University, the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Basar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 8th March writes:—

SRI SRI VISHNU  
PRIYA-O-ANANDA  
BASAR PATRIKA,  
March 8th, 1905.

We think that whatever God does is for the best. English education was ruining the country. Our people no longer possess their old bodily or mental strength, but are all eager for education. It is the uneducated sections of the community who have still some feeling of unity left. The Musalmans are an example. The pride and unity of the uneducated Musalman are worthy of imitation by the Hindus who boast of their education, and it is our opinion that such imitation will prove beneficial to the country. As the effect of English education, religious, amity, sympathy, manners, and family dignity have been on the wane in this country.



**SANJIVANI,**  
March 9th, 1906.

29. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 9th March speaks of the extremely bad condition of the circle schools in Bengal.

Circle schools in Bengal.

There are eight or nine classes in every circle school, and for teaching these there are only one permanent teacher and another, called the Circle Pandit, who has the charge of three circle schools. Every circle school has therefore only  $1\frac{1}{3}$  teachers. The permanent teacher gets a salary of Rs. 8 or Rs. 10 and the Circle Pandit of Rs. 15 or Rs. 20. Circle schools are generally three, four or five miles apart from each other. It is easily conceivable how difficult it is for one man to teach and manage three such schools, specially when he is so poorly remunerated. To obviate the difficulty of teaching, the authorities ordered that wherever the Circle Pandit shall teach, the students of all the schools under him shall gather. What a cruelty it is to compel tender boys to walk over six or eight miles during 20 days in a month in order to attend the teaching of the Circle Pandit! The effect of this is that people show a great unwillingness to send their boys to circle schools and that education is given only in name in those schools. Besides this, it is physically impossible for a man of a Circle Pandit's position, resources and ability to do all the work which he is wanted to do. It is therefore suggested that there should be a Circle Pandit for every circle school.

**HITAVADI,**  
March 10th, 1906.

30. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 10th March writes:—

The Calcutta Municipality and its educational expenditure.

Mr. Pedler has complained about the inadequacy of educational expenditure of the Calcutta Municipality, judged by the standard of the Bombay Municipality, and suggested to Government the need of improvement in this direction. The suggestion is not a bad one. The Calcutta Corporation is wasting a lot of funds in all sorts of useless things. Under such circumstances, even a little extravagance in educational expenditure would not be taken objection to by anybody. But any money which may be spent on primary education would be a waste, considering what primary education is going to be under the new scheme.

**HITAVADI.**

31. The same paper notices certain complaints in connexion with the recent University Entrance examinations. Attention

The recent University Entrance examinations.

is first drawn to the mistake whereby on the first day of the examination in some cases, question papers in Sanskrit were distributed as question papers in English, owing to the wrong labelling of the packets. Reference is next made to certain printer's errors and to what are alleged to be instances of defective construction of sentences and use of almost unintelligible words in the translation paper from Bengali into English. The following remarks occur in the course of this article:—

Will scandals in connection with [the examinations of the Calcutta University never cease? Every year there is some complaint or other made in this connection. What can be the reasons for this state of things? Is there nobody responsible for the doings of the University, and do those in charge of the examinations work without remuneration? These scandals have now become annual events, and a necessary part and parcel of the examinations. Can anybody explain to us why this should be? It is strange that all the agitation in the columns of newspapers which is carried on on this topic, year after year, is insufficient to rouse the University worthies from their deep sleep of indifference. It had been hoped that with the new *régime* introduced under Lord Curzon's pet scheme of reform, there would be no further repetition of these scandals. What can be a matter of deeper regret than that under the new as under the old *régime*, the inconveniences of the examinees remain unremoved?

**BANGAVASI,**  
March 11th, 1906.

32. Let the public, says the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 11th March, judge what harm was done to the examinees by

The Calcutta University Entrance Examination.

the comedy of errors which was played by the authorities of the Calcutta University in respect of some of the question papers of the last Entrance Examination. But who is responsible for the expenses which had to be incurred in consequence of this mistake?



33. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 10th March writes:—

*MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR*,  
March 10th, 1905.

A recent circular of Mr. Pedler's, boys when applying for admission into a school shall have to state their fathers' profession and income. We cannot see the justification for such an order. Why should a boy be required to make public his father's or guardian's income? The son of a poor father will pay the same fee as the son of a richer father. Why then should the former make his impecunious circumstances public? There is such a thing as self-respect; and poverty does not destroy this feeling. Will no boy be permitted to receive the benefits of education in future unless he consents to make his family affairs public? What business have Government to inquire if a particular student is poor or rich? Will Government agree to offer poor boys a free education?

34. Referring to the Punjab foot-ball case, the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 11th March observes that the new Universities

*BHARAT MITRA*,  
March 11th, 1905.

The Punjab football case. Act has made prosecutors themselves judges all round and has made educationists consider themselves as governors. The missionaries, who are ever ready to sacrifice their life in the cause of education, are now trying to stop the same. Boys sometimes quarrel with one another, but it is a new thing to see a University taking up its cudgels against them. A correspondent of the Punjabi paper has suggested to the Committee of the Doyanand College to prefer an appeal to the Senate of the Punjab University, and failing there, to move the Chancellor of that University; and if he too declines to interfere, the Committee ought to seek the protection of a law Court. We hope the Chancellor will settle this affair, because if the case goes up to a Judicial Court, Lord Curzon will have to take steps to get a new Validating Act passed.

35. Commenting upon the decision in the football case between the students of the Mission College and those of the D. A. V. College, the *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the

*HITAVARTA*,  
March 12th, 1905.

The Punjab football case. 12th March says that the case having been tried by the Principal of the College the students of which were complainants, it cannot be said that the case was impartially decided. According to the Evidence Act, the evidence of such a man cannot be relied upon. Under no law can such a man try the case. Will the attention of the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab be drawn to this case?

36. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 11th March says that the new Universities Act is now having its sway. It is

*BHARAT MITRA*,  
March 11th, 1905.

Effect of the Universities Act. heard that a proposal is going to be made to render the Entrance Examination still more stiff.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

37. The *Khulnavasi* [Khulna] of the 4th March complains that the municipal *ijardar* (lessee) of the ferry-ghat on the Bhairab river near the dispensary at Khulna town is in the habit of levying dues upon boat passengers who use that ghat at rates higher than those fixed by the Municipality.

*KHULNAVASI*,  
March 4th, 1905.

38. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 10th March is glad to notice that the Bengal Government proposes to abolish the special Plague Department of the Calcutta Municipality.

*HITAVADI*,  
March 10th, 1905.

The Plague Department of the Calcutta Municipality. The Plague Department has long swallowed a large amount of the rate-payers' money, and still continues to swallow it. Yet the virulence of plague remains quite unabated. Under these circumstances the justification for the continued existence of the department does not appear. Its abolition would mean a stop of a waste of the public funds.

39. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 11th March says that the want of proper drainage, the presence of foul ponds and

*BANGAVASI*,  
March 11th, 1905.

The health of the mufassal. above all the want of good drinking water make Bengal villages hot-beds of malaria, cholera and other epidemics. This, added to poverty, makes the condition of the average Bengal villager extremely miserable. Government is therefore appealed to to make arrangements for free distribution of medicines among poor villagers and for a supply of good drinking water in the mufassal.



**BASUMATI,**  
March 11th, 1905.

40. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 11th March says that on account of the silting up of the Bhairab river, epidemics break out every year in many villages in the Nadia district. Cannot the authorities do something to prevent this?

**BANGAVASI,**  
March 11th, 1905.

41. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 11th March asks Government to publish a list showing the amounts of money which have been subscribed by the public, the District Boards and Government respectively for water-supply in Bengal since the publication of the water-supply circular.

**HITAVARTA,**  
March 12th, 1905.

42. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 12th March has the following:—  
Unadulterated milk, ghee and mustard oil have become rare in Calcutta. This is attributed to the fact that the European population does not use them. There is no denying that the mischief caused by adulterated milk is more serious than that by watered jute. But the Government seems to be more inclined towards the pecuniary interest of the European weavers and jute merchants than to the health of the people of such a large town as Calcutta. Cannot the Calcutta Municipality take any steps against the sale of adulterated food articles?

(f)—*Questions affecting the land.*

**BARNAL HITAIISHI,**  
March 8th, 1905.

43. The *Barisal Hitaiishi* [Barisal] of the 8th March says that one of the effects of the survey and settlement of the Backergunge district has been to create ruinous disputes between landlords and tenants. It is seldom that officials have the interest of the people at heart. The Permanent Settlement has made the zamindar an eyesore to officials. Officials are, therefore, always ready to create and foment disputes between the zamindar and the tenant.

The cost of the settlement is being realised where the work has been finished. It is not, however, easy to see how the cost has been assessed, seeing that the survey operations have not yet been completed all over the district. Many people will be ruined by the payment of the cost.

**BARNAL HITAIISHI.**

44. A correspondent of the same paper says that under Mr. Beatson-Bell's order, all rents in kind in the Backergunge district are being transmuted into rents in money, such rents being calculated not on the actual value of the fixed rents in kind but on the rents in money paid for adjoining lands. This will ruin many poor landholders and snatch away from many a poor widow the only means of her livelihood.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

**RANGPUR VARTAVAHA,**  
March 3rd, 1905.

45. The *Rangpur Vartavaha* [Rangpur] of the 3rd March draws attention to the conduct of the Platform Inspector of Parbatipur Junction station on the Eastern Bengal State Railway in attempting, on the night of the 27th February last, to interfere with the discretion of a male intermediate class passenger who chose to make a female relative travel with him in the same compartment instead of, as pressed by this Inspector, in the female compartment.

Reference is also made to the uncivil manners of one of the booking-clerks at Natore station on the same railway. The booking-clerk complained against is not Bepin Babu, who is said to be very helpful to passengers in their difficulties, but another who is an old man.

**SANSODHINI,**  
March 3rd, 1905.

46. The *Sansodhini* [Chittagong] of the 3rd March complains that the train on the Assam-Bengal line which is timed to arrive at Chittagong at 8 in the evening is almost always delayed up to 12 or 1 o'clock in the night. It is alleged that this unpunctuality causes great inconvenience to all passengers, specially to those hailing from places near Nizampore, the Munsifi of which place was transferred to Chittagong town on the score of the convenience of communication by railway between the two places.



47. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 7th March suggests the construction of a railway from Sarisabari to Subarnakhali and thence to the point of junction of the Atai and Bairan streams, as a completion of the recently sanctioned scheme of a line from Pabna-Gopalpur to Seraiganj, and of the proposed extension of this latter line from Seraiganj to the river-bank opposite Jagannathganj.

CHARU MIHIR,  
March 7th, 1905.

48. A correspondent of the *Jyoti* Chittagong] of the 9th March complains of the severe ill treatment which pilgrims to the Sitakundu *mela* in the Chittagong district are receiving at the hands of railway servants. They are being literally packed and transported like cattle in waggon. Many of them are being delayed for four or five days for want of accommodation in trains. Bribery is in full swing among the railway servants and policemen stationed at the railway stations. The editor says as an eye-witness that one day the booking office in the Sitakundu railway station was not opened for the morning train. Police constables took bribes from many pilgrims and bought them tickets from within the station-room. Everyone from the station-master to the police constable seemed actuated by the one intention of extorting money from passengers.

JYOTI,  
March 9th, 1905.

49. A correspondent writing to the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 11th March complains about the overcrowding of the two trains on the Bengal Central Railway which respectively leave and reach Calcutta at 8-53 A.M. and 10-3 A.M. It is alleged that this overcrowding has been specially noticeable since the opening of the Baraset-Basirhat Light Railway.

DAILY HITAVADI,  
March 11th, 1905.

50. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 15th March complains that there is only one train, and that at the early hour of 5 in the morning, from Howrah to Bankura. This causes great inconvenience. The Peardoba station on this railway is situated at a very inconvenient place and intending passengers from the surrounding villages find it difficult to go to it. The station should be removed to a place near the Manjuria village, between miles 117 and 118. The expenses of construction of this station were small, and it would entail no serious loss to the Railway Company to remove the station to the place suggested. The attention of the authorities is drawn to these matters.

DAILY HITAVADI,  
March 15th, 1905.

(h)—General.

51. The *Khulnavasi* [Khulna] of the 4th March contains a reference to the alleged oppressions by Babu Ram Komal Gupta, Income-tax Deputy Collector of Khulna, a subject which has been, on many previous occasions, agitated in its columns. [See paragraph 28 of the Report on Native Papers in Bengal for the week ending the 14th January 1905.] It is said that although warned by the District Magistrate, Mr. Gupta does not yet show any signs of having mended his ways.

KHULNAVASI,  
March 4th, 1905.

52. The *Tripura Hitaisi* [Comilla] of the 7th March has the following:—  
British rule in India. What do the English think? If their acts are an index to their thoughts, their thoughts appear to be something like the following:—"India is our play-ground. No other race on earth possesses a dominion like ours in India. India provides us with wealth, prestige, means of livelihood and commerce. England is alive because she is mistress of India. Englishmen will lose their predominance in the world with the loss of India. Therefore the government of India is to be so conducted as to ensure for all time the contented continuance of the Indian people as slaves."

TRIPURA HITAIHSI,  
March 7th, 1905.

Is this the reason which explains the diminution of confidence in the Indian people? The Arms Act was passed with the intention of depriving the general public of the country of their arms. This Act is being enforced with increasing vigour. The suggested Game Law now under consideration will go further in the same direction.

Now that the competitive system has been abolished, merit will no longer be appreciated.



The higher posts in the Telegraph Service will no longer be open to natives but will be kept as monopolies for Eurasians.

In the Army, the higher ranks of Captain and the like are not open even to the most qualified native soldiers.

The new law about high education is such as to suggest an apprehension that it will in future be closed to the general public. The rules about admission into a school and transfer from one school to another are being made increasingly severe.

Government is in many different ways inculcating on us the great duty of obedience to our parents, to our superiors and to our rulers. It is being declared that the real object of education is to teach this obedience. Can that Government be said to possess a conscience clear as a transparent piece of glass, which would compel obedience rather than place any reliance on spontaneous feelings of love for the rulers?

If our rulers harbour suspicions against their subjects, if they try to place obstacles in the path of their gradual improvement, then the effects even in the distant future are sure to be of a terrible character.

The ambition of the Indian people is to learn manliness at the feet of the English. After a long intervening period of disorder, the English came to India under God's dispensation to teach the Hindus and Musalmans of India the lesson of manliness. The English are our masters, we are their pupils. We wish to be educated so as to be able to stand on our own legs. The English are ordained to be our teachers for this purpose. Will they refuse to accept this high mission from God? Will they rather choose to look upon us with suspicion and do us harm? Our ambition is to be subjects worthy of the British Empire. Death is preferable to the life of subjects who live like coolies.

CHAR MIHIR, U  
March 7th, 1905.

53. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 7th March writes:—

The partition question.

Our contemporary of the *Indian Daily News* is informed that the papers in connection with the partition question will be sent to the Secretary of State by the Indian Government before the close of the present Calcutta season. We do not know how far the information of our contemporary is correct, but the present Parliament is expected soon to dissolve. And probably in the next Parliament there will be a majority of liberals. It is not impossible that the partition scheme may not meet with the acceptance of a liberal Secretary of State. It is for this reason probably that Lord Curzon is in a hurry to get his proposals sanctioned by the existing Government.

SRI SRI VISHNU  
PRIYA-O-ANANDA  
BAZAR PATRIKA,  
March 8th, 1905.

54. Referring to the recent creation of the new Department of Commerce and Industry of the Government of India, which was notified in the *Gazette of India* of the 4th March last, the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 8th March writes:—

This department is intended to promote the industrial and commercial development of the country. This might at first sight raise great hopes, but in actual practice, it is sure to turn out the opposite of what it is intended to be. Government has been making a great deal of fuss lately about the Agricultural Department, but in practice it is only cotton and jute that is being attended to, and that for the reason that England is interested in these two items as two of her principal sources of wealth.

SRI SRI VISHNU  
PRIYA-O-ANANDA  
BAZAR PATRIKA.

55. The same paper writes:—

Mr. Carey.

Mr. Carey has many previous times in many different ways brought deep disgrace on the dignified office of District Magistrate. That he is still allowed to continue in that high office is due solely to the weakness of character of the Indian people. The British Government has come to know that the Indian public is without any sense of self-respect, of honour and dishonour, and that there is not the slightest possible chance that it can by any means be roused to anything like activity or excitement. Knowing this, everybody from the Viceroy to the humblest Government official in the land can say and do anything unresisted and with impunity. Any one of the numerous acts of oppression of which Mr. Carey has been guilty would be enough to justify his degradation from his post. But has our just Government yet done anything for Mr. Carey's chastisement and discipline?



Mr. Carey now stands as an accused in the dock of a Criminal Court. He has seriously insulted a highly respectable gentleman. Has he been given his present post to act as a violator of the public peace?

56 The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 8th March writes in the following terms of Mr. J. N. Gupta, the Magistrate of that district, under orders of transfer to Bogra:—

BANKURA DARPAN,  
March 8th, 1905.

Mr. J. N. Gupta.

He undertook many works of public improvement for this district. For these things, the local public will long keep him in grateful remembrance. The Bankura public have appreciated his good intentions to the full, and are generally expressing regrets at his departure from their midst.

57. The *Barisal Hitaishi* [Barisal] of the 8th March hopes that the authorities will grant the prayer of the inhabitants of Bhola in the Backergunge district for a submarine telegraph wire to the place.

BARISAL HITAIISHI,  
March 8th, 1905.

Wanted submarine telegraph wire.

58. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 9th March notices with regret the total absence of qualified Indian experts on the superior staff of the Agricultural Institute at Pusa. It may be objected by Europeans that no qualified native agricultural expert is available.

SANJIVANI,  
March 9th, 1905.

Some recent appointments in the Bengal Agricultural Department.

But to show that this is a completely unfounded statement one has only to point to such names as Messrs. B. C. Bose, N. G. Mukharji, D. N. Mukharji, N. N. Banerji, etc. The late Conference at Pusa has recommended a European named Mr. Finloe for the post of jute expert. This Mr. Finloe was some time an apprentice learning the work of Deputy Director. Mr. Maddox made great efforts to get him this post, but unfortunately the choice fell on another man even less worthy than he. As he missed this post, some other fat berth must be found for him, so here is the post of jute expert going to him. Mr. Finloe made his first acquaintance with the jute plant under the superintendence of Messrs. D. N. Mukharji and N. G. Mukharji at Serajganj and in Mymensingh only a short time ago. A year ago he had not so much as seen a jute plant. And yet the same Mr. Finloe is now being put forward as a jute expert. His claims are regarded as superior to the claims of the men who possess almost a life-long practical acquaintance with jute. Can this be called appreciation of merit?

The office of Land Records and Agriculture has recently brought out a European named Mr. Smith for the post of Deputy Director on a commencing salary of Rs. 600. He has never before this so much as trod the soil of India. And before he came to India he certainly did not know whether paddy plants resembled the palm trees or the banyan trees. One can well imagine his knowledge of Indian agriculture. Further, it has been ascertained from a trustworthy source that he is not a graduate of the Cirencester College. He was simply apprenticed to a graduate of that college for a time. After the lessons furnished by these two appointments will any Englishmen still persist in saying that it is the unfitness of the Indian experts alone which stands in the way of their preferment? Can Government profess to be ignorant of the fact that Mr. D. N. Mukharji is touring about this Province, taking the Deputy Director about with him, and instructing him like a pupil?

There are four travelling overseers attached to the Agricultural Department, the very nature of whose duties keeps them in constant touch with all questions of agricultural improvement. They are known to have made special efforts during the last three or four years for the improvement of jute and cotton. Babu Hara Kumar Guha is known to have served with credit in this department for 18 years. Similarly, there is the record of good service of 11 years to the credit of Babu Nibaran Chandra Chaudhury. These travelling overseers, though ill-paid, are being made to do highly responsible work. Mr. Maddox recommended some of these overseers for promotion, and it was confidently expected that they would be nominated Sub-Deputy Magistrates. But unfortunately no such promotion has yet come to them. It is things like these which show that interest is stronger than merit.

59. Referring to the recent appointment of Mr. Smith to be Deputy Director of Land Records and Agriculture, Bengal, the *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 10th March remarks:—

SAMAY,  
March 10th, 1905.

Mr. Smith, Deputy Director of Agriculture in Bengal.

The guiding policy of the Indian Government under Lord Curzon's administration is to make provision for his unemployed



countrymen, completely ignoring the claims of qualified educated natives of the soil.

HITAVADI,  
March 10th, 1905.

60. Writing on the question of the agricultural development of India, the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 10th March says:—

The agricultural development of India.

We are of course not opponents of any scheme of scientific agriculture. We are in favour of having a large number of agricultural chemists and bacteriologists in India for this purpose. We do not deny that to get qualified men for this purpose, we must at first import Europeans on high salaries. But care should be taken to see that an adequate number of native young men are apprenticed to these Europeans to learn their art, so that the money of the Indian raiyat may not be spent for ever in supporting a number of whites.

PRASUN,  
March 10th, 1905.

61. The *Prasun* [Katwa] of the 10th March writes:—

The question of agricultural improvement.

A sum amounting to a crore is annually spent in the United States of America on agricultural improvement. The population of India is five times larger than that of the United States. And yet in India there are only two agricultural colleges, three agricultural schools and about 20 scientific agricultural experts. What good can be expected from expenditure on such a restricted scale? The improvement of Indian agriculture will then alone become possible when, if ever, the Indian Government agrees to spend money on the same scale as the American Government. Agricultural improvement is a matter of time. A year or two cannot produce any appreciable results. We request Government to pay prior consideration to such things as will confer immediate benefit on the raiyats. The question of scientific instruction, of the preparation of chemical manures and the like may wait. Want of adequate irrigation tells every year on the outturn of the crops in some part of the country or other. At present the rains are the only resource to the cultivator in this respect. The application of adequate irrigation alone to the existing fields would increase their produce at least to five times what it is now. This is no imagination, but an experimented truth. The fields in this part of the country yield only one crop in the rains and remain barren for the rest of the year for want of water. Irrigation would convert these fields into fruitful gardens for the whole of the year. And such irrigation would not necessitate the construction of canals at fabulous expense. It would be enough if one tank were provided for each plot of land.

NAVA YUG,  
March 11th, 1905.

62. The *Nava Yug* [Calcutta] of the 11th March writes:—

The Office of the Bengali Translator to Government.

Babu Narayan Chandra Bhattacharyya, Bengali Translator to Government, having availed himself of privilege leave for two months, Babu Bidhu Bhusan Mukerji, his first Assistant, has been appointed to act in his place. The remissness of the Bengali Translator's office is often made a subject of remark in the press, but in our opinion since the retirement of Babu Chandra Nath, there has not been any cause of complaint. Anyhow we are glad to notice Bidhu Babu's promotion to this high office, even if it is for such a short time. We trust he will during his brief tenure of office make us happy by a skilful performance of his duties.

BIRBHUM VARTA,  
March 11th, 1905.

63. The *Birbhum Varta* [Birbhumi] of the 11th March makes the following

Allegations against a Sub-Registrar.

allegations as illustrative of the general incivility of manners which is said to characterise the conduct of the Sub-Registrar of Dubrajpur:—  
(1) He boxed the ears of a daffadar of this thana without provocation; (2) he assaulted with a stick a Brahman whose only offence was that he happened to stare at the Sub-Registrar's premises; and (3) he coerced the postal peon to deliver letters to him previously to anybody else.

BASUMATI,  
March 11th, 1905.

64. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 11th March says:—

"Lord Curzon's supporter."

Lord Curzon has at last found a supporter in the Deputy Comptroller of Post Offices, Delhi. This gentleman has had a copy of Lord Curzon's last Convocation speech stuck up in a conspicuous place in his office with a remark below it to the effect:—"This is what Lord Curzon thinks of the natives." The *feringi* clerks of the office are consequently lording it over their native fellow-clerks. It is no wonder that the poison which Lord Curzon has scattered should affect Government officers.



65. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 13th March notices a report

DAILY HITAVADI,  
March 13th, 1905.

An allegation against the Deputy Comptroller of Post Offices at Delhi.

that the Deputy Comptroller of Post Offices at Delhi recently put up on the notice-board of his office those particular passages of the Viceroy's Convocation address wherein His Excellency referred to the inferiority of Indians to Europeans as regards truthful habits. The paper enquires if a notice-board in a Government office can be used for any except a strictly official notice, and appeals to Mr. Gokhale to interpellate Government in Council on this subject.

66. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 12th March has the following:—

HITAVARTA,  
March 12th, 1905.

Administration of Lord Curzon.

Not only has the Government of Lord Curzon earned a bad name in ruling British India, but His Excellency's diplomacy in dealing with the Native States is unique and still more reprehensible. The annexation of the Berars, his ill-treatment of some Native Chiefs, and the disgrace to which some of them had been subjected by Lord Curzon in the Delhi Durbar in being made to hold in the skirts of his robe are well-known facts. His Excellency has ruined some Native Chief by interfering in the management of his State and compelled some to abdicate their thrones against their own wishes. Lord Curzon deprived the *Bara Thakur* of the Tippera Hills of his right to ascend the *gadi* and has thus violated the time-honoured custom of that State. The late Maharaja Holkar going to a voluntary exile is a good example of the Curzonian policy of Government and love of truthfulness. Future historians, if they be honest and impartial men and not anxious for a Government title, will while describing the dark deeds of Lord Curzon in connection with the deposition of the late Maharaja of Indore, certainly drown the name of His Excellency in the hell of calumny and reproach, and call the chapter dealing with that subject a black chapter or chapter of horrid deeds. It is to be hoped that His Excellency will not be displeased with this just criticism, but, on the other hand, will expiate his political sins by remorse and repentance. [Here the substance of an article in the *Bombay Advocate* is given.] . . . . .

It will now be evident that the Maharaja had to abdicate on account of the pressure brought to bear on him by Lord Curzon. We have been finding fault with the Native Chiefs for not trying to improve their States. But now we see it is no fault of theirs; the Government does not like to see the Native States prospering in any way. They know that if they made any efforts to improve their States they might any day be blown away to the Sundarbans by a cold blast from the snowy home of the north. Since there is no hope of the late Maharaja being reinstated on his *gadi*, the Government ought not to interfere with the rights and privileges of the minor Maharaja.

67. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 13th March notices with dis-

DAILY HITAVADI,  
March 13th, 1905.

A complaint against a European officer in a Calcutta office.

approval the alleged conduct of a superior European officer in the Pay Examiner's office (?) in ordering his clerks to submit to the ignominy of being made to stand in a body in the verandah of the office building in order to afford two European sergeants of police an opportunity of examining if there were present among those clerks some culprits of whom they were in search.

68. In view of the surplus which the Finance Minister is expected to

DAILY HITAVADI.

The expected surplus.

announce on the forthcoming occasion of the presentation of the Budget to the Legislative Council, the same paper suggests (1) a reduction of the land-tax in heavily-assessed districts; (2) a further reduction of the salt duty by 12 annas to the maund; and (3) a further raising of the limit of minimum assessable income from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500 a year.

69. The same paper suggests that, in view of the expected surplus in the

DAILY HITAVADI.

A suggestion.

Government treasury at the close of the current financial year, a grant should be made for the improvement of the sanitary condition of the rural areas around Calcutta.

70. The same paper writes as follows in reference to the auction of the

DAILY HITAVADI.

The excise question.

country liquor licenses for Calcutta and the suburbs which was held on the 10th March last:—  
Everyone will agree that permission should be granted to open liquor shops in any particular locality only after an enquiry into the particular wants



and conveniences of that neighbourhood. This is the principle which is followed in England. But in this hapless country the authorities look only to increased income from the Excise Department, and have no eye for the moral degradation of the people. We are glad to see that this defect is sought to be remedied in the proposed amendment of the Excise Law. But we have no faith that any practical good will come out of any such amendment if, in the matter of granting licenses for opening liquor shops, the Excise Department continues, as now, to be the final authority.

DAILY HITAVADI,  
March 15th, 1905.

71. Referring to the refusal of the Government of India to place the correspondence that passed between itself and the Secretary of State for India on the report of Mr.

Mr. Robertson's report.

Robertson, the President of the Railway Commission, on the table of the Imperial Legislative Council, as asked for by the Hon'ble Mr. Gokhale, the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 15th March has the following:—

We do not at all comprehend the necessity for such a policy of secrecy. The Hon'ble Mr. Gokhale did not want to know any secret of the Foreign or the Military Department. What can there be in the correspondence on railway matters to affect the safety of the Empire that the authorities think it right to keep it secret? How is it that a truth-loving and frank personage like Lord Curzon is so very eager to conceal truth? It is impossible that the "Oriental diplomacy" which he condemned the other day should ever find a place in his own administration. Why then is he so fond of a policy of secrecy? Is not this the worst sort of lawlessness? Would it not be far better to tell native members of the Council that henceforth no questions would be answered, than to insult them by refusing to answer their questions? Lord Curzon is ever anxious to win applause by a display of empty and high-sounding words, in which art he excels so much, but it is a truism to say that under him all the rights and privileges of the Indians are being taken away directly as well as indirectly. Let the future historian record this fact.

### III.—LEGISLATION.

BURDWAN  
SANJIVANI,  
March 7th, 1905.

72. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 7th March takes strong exception to the proposal to levy a tax of one pice per rupee of rent made in the Bengal Local Self-Government Amendment Bill. The levy of such

The Bengal Local Self-Government Amendment Bill.

a tax would, like the levy of the Road and Public Works Cesses, be a serious infringement of the conditions of the Permanent Settlement. The policy of guaranteeing interests on the cost of the construction of railroads, etc., in the country has been censured by many eminent Englishmen. But the authorities in India would still pursue it, in spite of the ruin which it is bringing on the inhabitants of the country. There is no further need of railways in Bengal. Land is now almost the sole support of Bengalis. If this is encroached upon by railways, how will they manage to live? Again, why should villagers, who themselves suffer from severe water-scarcity, be compelled to pay for the supply of filtered water in district or subdivisional head-quarters?

HITAVARTA,  
March 12th, 1905.

73. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 12th March says that the newly proposed provisions in the Local Self-Government Amendment Bill relating to the construction of railways in the mufassal and the supply of drinking water in district head-quarters at the expense of the District Boards are open to very serious objection. Firstly, the want of pure drinking water is much more keenly felt in the mufassal than at the head-quarters stations; secondly, an increase of tax upon cultivators will only tend to add to the misery of that class of people. It is, therefore, to be hoped that Sir Andrew Fraser will give these points his careful consideration before the Bill is passed.

The Local Self-Government Amendment Bill.

BARISAL HITAIISHI  
March 8th, 1905.

74. The *Barisal Hitaiishi* [Barisal] of the 8th March says that one of the effects of the proposed jute legislation would certainly be the creation of a number of posts on big salaries for Europeans.

The proposed jute legislation.

MALDAH SAMACHAR,  
March 8th, 1905.

75. Referring to the proposed jute legislation, the *Maldaha Samachar* [Malda] of the 8th March writes:—

The proposed jute legislation.

Is there no other way out of the difficulty except by legislation on the proposed lines? We appeal to our Lieutenant-Governor to devise some other method for preventing the adulteration of jute.



76. A correspondent of the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 11th March says that the practice of adulterating jute has greatly increased in the mufassal since the introduction of jute presses therein, and that it is the jute which comes to Calcutta that is most adulterated. The matter should be carefully inquired into. Government is requested to devise other means of checking the evil than the one which has been proposed.

BANGAVASI,  
March 11th, 1905.

77. One of the grounds of opposition against the Bengal Tenancy Act Amendment Bill, says the *Kasipur Nivasi* [Barisal] of the 8th March, is that if certified copies of records-of-right are to be filed in all rent-suits, it would be impossible for many poor landlords to realise rents from their tenants. It is suggested that copies of records-of-right should be demanded only when necessary.

KASIPUR NIVASI,  
March 8th, 1905.

78. The *Samvad Prabhakar* [Calcutta] of the 9th March says:—

A suggestion. In spite of the great good done by the Bengal Tenancy Act to tenants, they have to suffer greatly through the fault of the zamindar's *mal sherashta* in the matter of mutation of names. There are many zamindars who refuse to make such mutations. This often causes great loss to joint-tenants. In the absence of mutation of names the zamindar brings rent-suits against all the co-tenants although some of them have regularly paid their portions of rent. The innocent therefore suffer along with the guilty. As a matter of fact, many a poor tenant is ruined in this manner. Similar difficulties ensue on the purchase of portions of holdings also. It is hoped that this matter will be taken into consideration by the authorities in connection with the proposed amendment of the Bengal Tenancy Act.

SAMVAD  
PRABHAKAR,  
March 9th, 1905.

79. Referring to the refusal of Government to prepare the return called for by Mr. Gokhale in the meeting of the Supreme Legislative Council on the 10th March last, which was to show all the new appointments carrying a salary of Rs. 5,000 and over a year that have been created by Government since 1892 and also the names of the present holders of all such appointments, the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 11th March writes:—

DAILY HITAVADI,  
March 11th, 1905.

We have not been at all surprised at this refusal. For such an answer was in full accord with the general spirit of Lord Curzon's policy. Lord Curzon cannot endure that anybody should have the means wherewith to expose the hollowness of the theory he put forth last year on the basis of incomplete lists with the object of entrapping the public, as it were, in the meshes of the figures which he arranged with so much cunning, the theory, namely, that Indians are now employed in larger numbers than before in the higher offices of State. The lists which he then published did not include offices under the Military Department. And even in the other departments the respective lists of the European and Indian officers will not be published in full. The native press at that time noticed all these defects, and Lord Curzon's figures would have been completely falsified if the return called for by Mr. Gokhale had been furnished.

The reasons for this refusal are stated by Government to be that the preparation of this return will involve a large amount of labour and will occupy several months of time. But we wish to enquire why such a necessary list is not kept ready. Only the other day, the Hon'ble Mr. Chowdhury in the Bengal Council called for a return showing the number of people who died every year in the Province from malaria and the plague, respectively, and the amount of money which Government spends for relief in each case. To this it was replied on behalf of Government that no figures were available to show the number of deaths from malaria in the Province. Yet the actual fact is that malaria accounts for a larger percentage of deaths in Bengal than any other single disease. And yet no returns are prepared to show the extent of its havoc. Is such indifference indicative of a benevolent administration? Or can it be that there is any hidden policy underlying all this? The truth is that the officials are indifferent about preparing all returns which may in any way expose their own defects. But is such action in accordance with the policy of any civilised Government?



## IV.—NATIVE STATES.

HINDI BANGAVARI,  
March 13th, 1905.

80. The *Hindi Bangavari* [Calcutta] of the 13th March has the following:—

The ex-Raja of Manipur.

Raja Kolchand of Manipur and his brother, Aug Singh, are now in Hazaribagh. They live in two tiled houses hired on Rs. 6 a month each. Aug Singh having been attacked with rheumatism since the last five months has called his two wives to nurse him in sickness. Lately he petitioned the Government for an increment of his pension, but the result is not yet known. In fact the two brothers are living in a very poor condition. The Raja has to cook his own food and is unable to call his family to help him in his present misfortune. It is to be hoped that the affliction and grief of Raja Kolchand and his brother will touch the tender heart of the benign Government, and that it will be pleased to extend its mercy to them, so that they may live more comfortably in future.

SANDHYA,  
March 14th, 1905.

81. The *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 14th March notices a petition to the

Allegations against the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent of Manipur State.

Chief Commissioner of Assam from certain residents of Manipur, in which the following allegations are made against the local Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent. It appears that the bungalow of the Assistant Superintendent was burned down some time ago and when he took up his residence with the Executive Engineer, the latter officer's bungalow also was burned down. The Assistant Superintendent now issued a *parwana* upon the entire native public of Manipur, except the members of the Raj family, calling upon them to rebuild the two bungalows. The Superintendent, when appealed to, not only refused redress but actually went the length of putting some of the appellants under arrest. Further, it is alleged that some members of the Raj family have been imprisoned, and others banished from the State. It is said that great care is being taken by the Superintendent to see that these facts are not allowed to become public.

## V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

DAILY HITAVADI,  
March 11th, 1905.

82. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 11th March notices a meeting of

The Indian Census of 1901 and deaths from starvation.

the Society of Arts in London on the 16th February last, when a paper was read on the Indian Census for 1901 by Sir Charles Elliott, in which it appeared that, according to Sir Charles's estimate, about two crores of people had died of starvation in India during the decade from 1891 to 1901. The paper inquires if this statement, coming from the lips of such a high official in a meeting attended by officials like Messrs. Grierson and Skrine, would open the eyes of the Indian Government to the facts of the situation. Could not the Government have succeeded in saving these lives if it had tried? This year already signs of famine threaten in some quarters. It is to be hoped that Government will not be remiss in its efforts to save the lives of its subjects.

DAILY HITAVADI,  
March 13th, 1905.

83. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 13th March appeals to Govern-

Destruction of crops in Western and Northern India.

ment to bestir itself about saving the lives of its subjects in the distress which has been caused by the general destruction of crops in Northern and Western India by frost.

## VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

RANGPUR  
VARTAVAHA,  
March 3rd, 1905.

84. Referring to the

The Prince of Wales's intended visit to India.

announcement made in connexion with the Prince of Wales's approaching visit to India that no exchange of presents will be permitted on that occasion, the *Rangpur Vartavaha* [Rangpur] of the 3rd March writes:—

If His Royal Highness would consent to accept whatever his subjects may offer in love and reverence, it would only bespeak a true kindness of heart on his part. Many of his poor subjects with a bent towards poetry are sure to write poems welcoming His Royal Highness's visit. Such poems are sure to be accepted. The suggestion that gold and similar valuables are not to be accepted is not a bad one; for India is fallen upon days when she cannot



afford any longer to make a display of her loyalty by gold and gems. Arrangements should be made for reduced railway fares during the Prince's visit, so that the poorest of His Royal Highness's subjects may have no difficulty in getting a sight of his august person.

85. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 7th March writes:—

The Prince of Wales's visit to India.

CHARU MIHIR,  
March 7th, 1905.

The flow of rejoicings which will greet the Prince of Wales's arrival in this country can, when some time has elapsed after the visit is concluded, remain only as a dim memory in the minds of the public unless the Government does something to preserve a permanent memorial of the visit.

The Prince will be charmed by the natural scenery and the appearance of prosperity which he will everywhere meet with in India; but will fail to notice the grim poverty, the constant famines, the dense ignorance, and the strained relations between the rulers and the ruled which all lurk behind this outward prosperity and grandeur. It is our regret that His Royal Highness will not be able to know anything of the wants and the real condition of the country.

86. The *Jasohar* [Jessore] of the 8th March has an article headed "An invitation to the festivities" calling upon all friends and sympathisers to come and join the

The Sitaram festival.

JASOHAR,  
March 8th, 1905.

Sitaram festival. The writer concludes as follows:—

With a view to keep alive the blessed memory of Sitaram, let us hear discourses and *jatras* touching the incidents of his life. If only we can do this much we shall have done enough to propitiate the departed spirit on the sacred soil of Mahammadpur, where the last hero of the Hindus, and with him the last hope of national independence, perished. Let us all, Hindus and Musalmans, assemble in the dilapidated forts and ruins of the palaces and exclaim "Cheers for Sitaram, the glory of the Hindus!" "Cheers for Menahati, the disinterested, self-sacrificing lover of his country!" "Cheers for Bactar and other Pathan heroes!" "Cheers for Rupchand, the Chandah hero!" "Cheers for Lakshmi Narayanji and the ten-handed goddess, who were established by Sitaram!" "Cheers for unity!"

87. The *Pabna Hitaishi* [Pabna] of the 8th March publishes a poem in which the evil propensity shown by many Europeans to lay their boots on natives is satirised.

A poem.

PABNA HITAIISHI,  
March 8th, 1905.

88. The *Kasipur Nivasi* [Barisal] of the 8th March says:—

KASIPUR NIVASI,  
March 8th, 1905.

Government says that material prosperity and increase of population are the causes of the increase of lawsuits in Bengal. But as a matter of fact it is the ever-increasing poverty of the average Bengali that is responsible for the increase of law suits in the country. People fail to pay their rents and other liabilities timely, and thus law suits ensue.

89. It cannot be denied, writes the *Jasohar* [Jessore] of the 8th March, that the Indians have derived many blessings under British rule. It is devoutly to be wished that as long as India remains under foreign domination, she

JASOHAR,  
March 8th, 1905.

may continue under the sway of the civilised British Government. Under the protecting arm of this Government, life, honour and property are safe. Education and enlightenment has spread and anarchy has disappeared and the whole of India seems inspired with new life. But there is also a dark side to this glorious picture. How truth was honoured in this ancient land of the Rishis is well known to all Oriental scholars. Any insinuation to the contrary can only excite a smile even in boys. It is the contact of the English with India that has robbed the Indians of their truthfulness. This fact is proved by the testimony of many an Englishman. The British law Courts, British administration and education have introduced all sorts of falsehood, dishonesty and vices into Indian life. This is a matter which should receive our serious consideration.

90. Referring to the Viceroy's Convocation Speech, the *Medini Bhandhav* [Midnapur] of the 8th March writes:—

MEDINI BHANDHAV,  
March 8th, 1905.

The Viceroy's Convocation speech.

Those who are strongly in favour of something being done to protest against Lord Curzon's proud attitude should remember this thing first: Beg no favours of England. Do whatever can be done by your own efforts. Remember Lord Curzon's own



words "Learn that the true salvation of India will not be given you by the enactments of the British Parliament or of any Parliament at all." If our dormant feeling of self-respect is awakened by this speech we should certainly not look for redress in that quarter.

*SAMAY,*  
March 10th, 1905.

91. Referring to Friday's Town Hall protest meeting, the *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 10th March writes:—

The Town Hall meeting.

It would have been a most disgraceful thing for us if we had not made a united public protest against Lord Curzon's strictures on the Indian character. In our opinion, in addition to holding protest meetings like this in the different provincial capitals, a suitable place should be selected where representatives of every province of India might meet in a monster national protest meeting.

*HITAVARTA.*  
March 12th, 1905.

92. Noticing the protest meeting in the Town Hall held on Friday last, the *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 12th March observes that it is particularly necessary that such meetings should be held in the mufassal also. No

The last protest meeting at the Town Hall.

Viceroy before this ever insulted the Indians, Hindus, Muhammadans, Jains, Sikhs, etc., in this manner. Is it because our rulers are white and we are black and because they live in a princely style at our expense, leaving us in a starving condition, that they should speak disparagingly of us and our forefathers too? This is certainly unbearable.

*DAILY HITAVADI,*  
March 12th, 1905.

93. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 12th March says:—

The Town Hall meeting.

Last Friday's protest meeting was a unique success. There was a dearth of titled grandees in it. But humbler though more worthy people mustered strong. People of all classes, who have not sold themselves to flattery and sycophancy and who do not hunt after titles, flocked thither in thousands. The gathering was tremendous. Large numbers had to return disappointed for want of space.

*SANDHYA,*  
March 13th, 1905.

94. Referring to the meeting which was held on the 10th March last at the Calcutta Town Hall to consider Lord Curzon's Convocation Speech, the *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 13th March writes:—

The Town Hall meeting.

The summoning of such a meeting is a unique incident in the history of this country. Never before in this country was such a meeting called to protest against an act done by the highest official in the land. It can be well imagined that the organisers of this meeting undertook to hold this demonstration after a good deal of careful consideration. They set their hands to this unpleasant task only under a strong conviction that it was urgently necessary. The immense gathering seen and the spirit exhibited in Friday's meeting are enough to show every unbiased person how deeply Lord Curzon has wounded the feelings of the Indian public. In truth the assemblage was a unique one. Hindu and Musalman, Jain and Christian all were there under the impulse of a strong feeling, eager to join in the protest. Many who never take part in public life or political agitation of any sort shook off their lethargy under the prompting of a pressing sense of duty on the present occasion, and gathered at the Hall to show their sympathy with the protest. The lips refuse utterance when the heart is too full of sorrow. This is the reason why the many eloquent and learned men who were present at that gathering kept silent.

*SANDHYA,*  
March 14th, 1905.

95. The *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 14th March writes as follows in reference to the recent Town Hall protest meeting:—

"What is now our duty?"

After the formal protest recorded in this meeting, the storm of controversy may probably be looked upon as laid. What is our next duty? If the present English Ministry goes out of power, the administrative policy will undergo a decided change, which will benefit us to a certain extent and at least Curzonian vagaries will come to an end. Shall we remain inactive, with this prospect? The advent of the Liberal party into power will not certainly bring the moon down from the skies into the hollow of our hands. We are like unfortunate cattle, for whom the only provision is grass and water. The utmost we can expect is to have these in larger quantities than now. But anything better than this simple fare, even broken rice or chaff for instance, will never fall to our lot. Therefore comes the question—What is now our duty?



In our opinion, an effort should now be made to alter our present status of slaves. Our rulers have assured us that we are no slaves but British subjects. If we take the Royal promises we are not slaves, it is true. But officials of the temperament of Lord Curzon treat us in a fashion which makes us feel that we are no British subjects but slaves. But we are not referring to this sort of slavery when we talk of altering our status as slaves. In matters intellectual and moral many of our community have come in their hearts to accept the supremacy of the English as *gurus* or instructors. Until this sense of inferiority goes, there is no hope for us. We have lost our self-respect. And nothing avails without self-respect.

We have been receiving English education for about three or four successive generations now. This English education has succeeded in impressing on our minds the deep-rooted conviction that without English education one can neither be learned nor civilised. We should see that future generations are no longer deluded by this mistaken idea. We glory in the external polish of the European and treat with contempt the heartfelt courtesy and sociability of the Hindu. If the self-forgetfulness and absence of real insight which are indicated by such a state of opinion are allowed also to influence our children and our children's children, then indeed we shall have become a race of *pucca* slaves.

There is only one remedy for this undesirable state of things. The charge of the education of our boys and youths must be transferred from the control of the English to our own hands. There should no longer be any delay over this question. Schools should be started in every village and town all over the country. In these schools education should be imparted on Hindu lines, with English occupying a secondary place. Then alone will a feeling of self-respect gradually revive among our people.

96. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 11th March gives Lady Curzon a hearty welcome on her return to India and thanks Heaven for her recovery from severe illness.

BASUMATI,  
March 11th, 1905.

97. The same paper says:—

The Lieutenant-Governor's Gidhour speech.

Our Lieutenant-Governor is a good man. In his Gidhour speech he spoke to the effect that it was a mistake to think that such men as devoted themselves to the service of their country were considered by the authorities to be unfit for public honours. It was good that His Honour said this, because in many cases people receiving Government titles are unable to make out whether their honours are the fruits of their services to the country or the effects of their having won the good graces of officials.

BASUMATI.

98. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 11th March says that, according to the correspondent of a contemporary, the Deputy Comptroller of Post Office in Delhi has had the Convocation speech of Lord Curzon affixed to a conspicuous place of his office. This action of the officer must have pleased the white and pained the Indian clerks.

BHARAT MITRA,  
March 11th, 1905.

The hungry clerk must suffer this one more pain to the many that he is already subject to.

99. Commenting upon Lord Curzon's Convocation speech and Lord Kitchener's Calcutta Madrassa speech, the *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 12th March observes that the Commander-in-Chief has put the learned statesman to shame this time.

HITAVARTA,  
March 12th, 1905.

#### URIYA PAPERS.

100. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 4th March states that the cold has completely disappeared, but that the sky is still cloudy. A few drops of rain fell in the Cuttack town in the last week.

UTKALDIPIKA,  
March 4th, 1905.

The health of Cuttack.

101. The same paper states that fever and cough are raging in the Cuttack town nowadays.

UTKALDIPIKA.

102. The *Sankhatras* correspondent of the same paper says that paddy sells at 28 seers, *brihi* at 12 seers, and *kulthi* at 21 seers per rupee in that place.

UTKALDIPIKA.

Prices of food-grains.



UTKALDIPKA.

103. The Jajpur correspondent of the same paper says that mango blossoms have been destroyed by foul weather and that a total failure of the mango crop is anticipated in that part of the province.

The mango crop at Jajpur.

UTKALDIPKA.

104. The same correspondent says that many rice-merchants from Cuttack are busy purchasing rice in that part of the province by paying visits to every house, and consequently anticipates a rise in the price of rice.

An anticipated rise in the price of rice.

UTKALDIPKA.

105. The Puri correspondent of the same paper states that the cold has completely disappeared and that rain fell in the last week accompanied with winds.

The weather at Puri.

UTKALDIPKA.

106. Understanding that the Raja of Nava is interesting himself in the matter of widow marriage, the same paper observes that native Princes should take the lead in the cause of social reformation, and is glad to find some Rajas directing their attention to the matter, as, according to the writer, much good will accrue from such a step.

Native Princes and social reform in India.

UTKALDIPKA.

107. In giving an account of a case of burglary committed in a village of Jajpur, the same paper states that a tahsil panchayet was guilty of gross highhandedness towards the complainant, two chaukidars aiding and abetting him in the offence. In the trial which followed the tahsil panchayet was sentenced to one month's imprisonment and to a fine of Rs. 20, but no notice was taken of the conduct of the chaukidars. Nor does the writer know whether or not any compensation was paid to the complainant. The writer hopes that the Magistrate will duly consider these matters and will be careful in the future in the appointment of panchayets and chaukidars.

A burglary case in Jajpur.

UTKALDIPKA.

108. Referring to His Excellency the Viceroy's recent Convocation speech, and to His Excellency's observations regarding the veracity of the Indian people, the same paper observes that the remark that 'truth is honoured in Europe and not in this country' has greatly wounded the feelings of the people, that if His Excellency cherishes such fixed ideas regarding India, he ought not to remain at the helm of its administration, as no good can be expected at his hands. Further, the writer is exceedingly sorry to notice that last year His Excellency declared the Indians to be unfit for high Government appointments and that this year he has pronounced them to be untruthful.

The Viceroy's Convocation speech.

UTKALDIPKA.

The recent Exhibition at Midnapore.

109. The same paper says that the Exhibition held at Midnapore was successful beyond expectation.

UTKALDIPKA.

110. Referring to the Report on the Land Revenue Administration of the Lower Provinces for the year 1903-04, and to the great increase in the number of rent-suits in Orissa, and to the difficulties which the Orissa zamindars are labouring under in realising rents

Report on the Land Revenue Administration of the Lower Provinces for 1903-04.

from their tenants, the same paper observes that the explanation given in the said report that, "owing to the enhancement of revenue at the last settlement, landlords cannot afford to allow arrears to remain outstanding so long as formerly, and that the settlement records make it easy for zamindars to prove their claims in Court," is unsatisfactory and untenable, and points out that should the Board of Revenue or the Government be pleased to enquire into the matter carefully, they would find out that the abnormal enhancement of the revenue to be paid by the zamindars, made at the last settlement, lies at the root of all these evils, that the zamindars, through fear of their estates being sold for arrears of revenue, incur heavy debts in order to pay their revenues in time, that under such a state of things the zamindars cannot be expected to treat their tenants with any leniency whatever, and that the result is that both zamindars and tenants are being brought to ruin by rent suits, as the whole cost of the rent suits cannot be realised from the tenants. In conclusion, the writer observes that, for the protection of the zamindars as well as the tenants from ruin, it behoves the benign Government to devise some means by which arrears of rent can be realised more easily.



111. The same paper is exceedingly glad at the excellent manner in which the ceremony of opening the Lady Woodburn Female Ward at Cuttack, built by the princely donation of the Raja of Kanika, was performed a few days ago, and offers its cordial thanks to the Raja of Kanika for this noble act at the beginning of his exalted and promising career.

UTKALDIPIKA.  
MARCH 7, 1905.

112. The same paper is glad to learn that the Madras Landholders' Association is trying to perpetuate the memory of His Excellency Lord Ampthill, Governor of Madras, for the indefatigable exertions with which he had an Act passed for the protection from ruin of certain old zamindari estates of the Madras Presidency, and observes that the manner in which the originators of the movement are proceeding, and the objects they have in view, are calculated to do a deal of good to the nobility and to the general public in that Presidency.

UTKALDIPIKA.  
MARCH 7, 1905.

113. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 1st March states that there was only one case of incendiarism in the last Sessions there, and that the accused has been sentenced to six months' rigorous imprisonment.

URIYA AND  
NAVASAMVAD.  
March 1st, 1905.

114. The same paper thanks Mr. Egerton for the invaluable services which he is rendering to the cause of female education in the Balasore district.

URIYA AND  
NAVASAMVAD.

115. Referring to the recent appointment of some gentlemen from Bengal as Sub-Deputy Collectors and the total absence of the names of domiciled Bengalis of Orissa in that list, the same paper complains that the domiciled community of Orissa is receiving no consideration at the hands of Government, and hopes that, with a wise, considerate and sympathising ruler like Mr. Growse at the helm of the Orissa administration, the standing grievance of this community will be redressed ere long.

URIYA AND  
NAVASAMVAD.

116. Understanding that some foreign traders are trying to open shops at the new station of the Mayurbhanj Light Railway, the Mayurbhanj correspondent of the same paper observes that the usefulness of the Light Railway would be fully realised if the people of this country would be actuated by a spirit of commercial enterprise.

URIYA AND  
NAVASAMVAD.

117. The same correspondent says that mango blossoms are so meagre in quantity that they may safely be left out of account.

URIYA AND  
NAVASAMVAD.

118. The same paper says that, considering the increase in the income of the railways in India, it is a matter of great regret that the Railway authorities are paying no attention to the conveniences and comforts of the railway passengers who are the real source of this increased income.

URIYA AND  
NAVASAMVAD.

119. The *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 4th March states that on the 1st of March a violent storm took place at Talcher, accompanied with hailstones of extraordinary size which did great injury to houses, gardens, men, cattle and other animals. Old people say that such a storm and such big hailstones were never heard of within living memory.

GARJATBASINI,  
March 4th, 1905.

120. The Kothpada correspondent of the same paper writes to say that a huge man-eating tiger has mauled nine men and killed many dogs and sheep in that part of the Cuttack district.

GARJATBASINI.

121. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 2nd March is glad to learn that the Raja of Bamra is quite a teetotaler and has issued an order forbidding the sale of intoxicating liquors within ten miles from his own *garh*, and observes that such an aversion for strong drink reflects great credit on a Hindu prince like the present Raja of Bamra.

SAMVAD VAHIKA,  
March 2nd, 1905.

122. The same paper states that the sky was cloudy and that slight rain-fell in the last week in Balasore.

SAMVAD VAHIKA.



SANVAD VANIKA.

123. The same paper says that mango blossoms are seen in very small quantities.

SANVAD VANIKA.

The mango crop.  
124. The Mayurbhanj correspondent of the same paper says that although the cold has abated in Mayurbhanj, yet the general health of the people is not good, as some people have died of fever recently.

SANVAD VANIKA.

The weather and the public health in Mayurbhanj.  
125. The same correspondent says that rain fell in the last week in the garh as well as in the interior of Mayurbhanj, and that though this timely rain has done some good to cultivation work, yet this work has suffered some impediment owing to the loss of cattle occasioned by rinderpest.

SANVAD VANIKA.

The weather and the crops and cattle in Mayurbhanj.  
126. The same correspondent says that mango blossoms are visible in only a few villages in the Mayurbhanj State, and hopes that ripe mangoes will become available this year in that place.

BIDHUBHUSAN MUKERJEA,

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

Offg. Bengali Translator.

The 18th March 1905.



# REPORT (PART II)

ON

## NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending Saturday, 18th March 1905.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

352. The *Indian Mirror* considers that the Mission to Afghanistan will best consult its safety by not prolonging its stay in Kabul further than it can help.

The Kabul Mission.

INDIAN MIRROR,  
18th March 1905.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

353. The *Amrita Bazar Pa'rika* mentions that two European Police Sergeants visited the Pay Examiner, Military Accounts Department, and induced him to order out all the Indian clerks employed in his office and submit them to a critical inspection. A similar request made to the Assistant Controller of Military Accounts was refused. The journal enquires the reason of the Indian clerks being subjected to this indignity.

Indian clerks in Government offices paraded before the police.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
12th March 1905.

354. A correspondent of the *Indian Mirror* complains of the many obscene and unholy things done in public during the *Holi* festival by ignorant and illiterate people, and draws the attention of the Government to the fact that the police are responsible for allowing the people to consider that the authorities have made no provision for such misdemeanour in public.

The *Holi* festival.

INDIAN MIRROR,  
14th March 1905.

355. The same journal publishes a letter from a correspondent at Burdwan endorsing the foregoing complaints regarding the disgraceful behaviour of low-class people in public, specially in the presence of women, during the *Holi* festival. This undesirable state of things is very prevalent in Burdwan, where most of the miscreants are up-country police constables and town chaukidars. While it regrets that these practices have so long gone unchecked, it hopes that the District Magistrate and District Superintendent of Police will now adopt stringent measures to put a stop to them.

*Ibid.*

INDIAN MIRROR,  
18th March 1905.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

356. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* recounts the case of a European ticket-collector named Grey, who on being found guilty of robbing a European railway passenger of cash and other valuables, was let off by the District Magistrate of Burdwan with a lenient sentence of one month's rigorous imprisonment on the intercession of his sweetheart and her mother. The journal thanks the Magistrate for his kindness, and wishes that all such officers had followed this example when disposing of similar cases, irrespective of the consideration of creed or colour.

Clemency shown by a District Magistrate to a European accused.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
10th March 1905.

357. The *Bengalee* holds that the unpopularity of the Calcutta Small Cause Court and the want of confidence displayed by the public towards it are due to its being a manufactory of fraudulent suits based on false affidavits.

Fraudulent suits in the Calcutta Small Cause Court.

BENGALIAN,  
11th March 1905.

The attention of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor is drawn to a typical case in which one Tamizuddi brought a suit in the name of Moniar Khan against Yakub and another for the recovery of money lent. Without serving the summonses upon the defendants the plaintiff caused appearance to be entered in their names, partially admitting the claim, and then obtained a decree against them. He next got the decree transferred to the Court of the Munsif of Manickganj for execution and caused the arrest of Yakub in his native village in Manickganj subdivision, on an affidavit which is alleged to have been false. Yakub hearing for the first time of the decree against him, came to Calcutta and learnt from Moniar Khan that he knew nothing about the suit and had not instituted it himself. Moniar Khan made a statement to this effect before the 4th Judge of the Small Cause Court, who ordered the pleader for the plaintiff to produce his client together with the man Tamizuddi. None of these appearing on the date of hearing, the Judge granted a new trial and ordered Tamizuddi to pay Rs. 10 to Yakub as costs. The case came up before



Mr. Panioty, but owing to his absence, it was transferred to Mr. Abdur Rahman, who, at the request of Tamizuddi's pleader, allowed it to be withdrawn in spite of Yakub's asking the Court to insist on the production of the man under whose instructions the false case had been instituted.

The invisible plaintiff was, however, ordered to pay one-third of the costs incurred by the defendant. This course was eminently calculated to screen the offender.

Yakub submitted a petition to the Chief Judge for enquiry into this fraudulent case, but he was referred to the 4th Judge and by the latter to the 3rd Judge, who refused it with the remark that he was unable to entertain the application.

INDIAN EMPIRE,  
14th March 1905.

358. Referring to the case in which W. F. Butler, who was accused of robbing a fellow-passenger of a gold watch and chain and throwing him out of the train, was sentenced to confinement till the rising of the Court, the *Indian Empire* suggests that the Government should be moved for a retrial, as the public are of opinion that there has been a miscarriage of justice.

(d)—Education.

PEOPLE,  
11th March 1905.

359. The *People* draws a comparison between the opinion of Lord Curzon and Lord Kitchener on the subject of education, and advises the educational authorities to take the Commander-in-Chief's hint and make education so cheap as to be within the reach of the poor. Although this will remove popular discontent, the journal believes that, in the near future, serious consideration must be given to compulsory education.

NEW INDIA,  
11th March 1905.

360. Commenting on the new system of rural education which is under consideration, *New India* puts forward various reasons in support of its condemnation of the scheme, and pronounces it an attempt to cripple the growing life of the people by fostering a spirit of isolation in the rural areas.

It dwells on the necessity of first devoting about five years exclusively to the general training of the intellectual, moral, and æsthetic faculties, and fixes 7 to 12 as the general age-period for this primary education.

BENGALER,  
16th March 1905.

361. The absurdity of the argument that agriculturists in Bengal cannot understand a book not written in their own *patois* is pointed out by the *Bengalee*, which states that the *Ramayana* of Krittibas and the *Mahabharat* of Kashiram, composed in pure Bengali, are universally read and easily understood by the agricultural population.

HINDOO PATRIOT,  
16th March 1905.

362. The *Hindoo Patriot* condemns the Government scheme of rural primary schools, by which education will be imparted with the use of model text-books prepared in English and translated into local vernaculars, and agrees with the proposals of the British Indian Association, which is in favour of expanding and systematising the indigenous system of education.

The unanimity of views should convince Government of the harmful character of its proposal.

BENGALER,  
14th March 1905.

363. The *Bengalee* complains of the unfairness to candidates occasioned by the arbitrary fluctuations in the total number of marks allotted in the Persian paper set at the Entrance Examination of the last two years. The setting apart of 10 marks for neat handwriting also proves a serious disadvantage, as no such recognition is accorded in the Sanskrit paper.

BENGALER,  
14th March 1905.

364. Since the Adya and Madhya examinations of the Calcutta Pundit Sabha are conducted by officers of the Education Department, the *Bengalee* suggests, for the consideration of the Director of Public Instruction, that the Senate Hall or any Government College or school building should be used for the purpose instead of the private residence of Babu Nobin Chand Dutt. This can easily be done by altering the dates of the examinations, so as to avoid their clashing with the dates of the University examinations.



365. The *Bengalee* complains that some of the questions set at the last Pleadship Examination were based upon the omitted portions of the text. This grievance specially applies to question 10.

BENGALIAN,  
10th March 1905.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

366. Commenting on the decision to abolish the Special Plague Department in Calcutta and to transfer the work to the Corporation in accordance with the system prevailing in Bombay, the *Hindoo Patriot* remarks that care should be taken not to sacrifice efficiency to economy. The abolition of the Plague Department in Mysore has resulted in an appreciable increase of the disease, and the policy hitherto adopted in Bombay has failed miserably.

HINDOO PATRIOT,  
11th March 1905.

A separate establishment must be maintained, even by the Corporation, to properly carry on disinfection and the like, and the conservancy arrangements leave much to be desired. The reduction in the charges may therefore prove imaginary, and if there is any serious outbreak the Health Department might find it hard to cope with it sufficiently well, without neglecting its other duties.

367. Referring to the decision of the Calcutta Corporation in voting Rs. 20,000 for an address and present to Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales on the occasion of their proposed visit to Calcutta, the *Indian Mirror* expresses surprise at the position taken up by Mr. Tremearne, the author of the proposal, who had hitherto been a stout opponent of illegal doings of any kind. All sections of the community are cordially unanimous in the desire to show the greatest honour to the Royal visitors, but the question concerning the Corporation is one of a legal character and not sentiment or loyalty. The Commissioners had no right to depart from the purview of the Act, and their action amounted to breach of trust with regard to public funds which were in their hands for the benefit of the town. Five times the amount voted by the Corporation could have been easily subscribed in the city. In view of the announcement that no presents will be received by His Royal Highness from Indian Princes, it should also have been considered whether any present would be accepted from a corporate body.

INDIAN MIRROR,  
11th March 1905.

Another illegality committed by the Calcutta Corporation.

368. In an article discussing the budget of the Calcutta Municipality, the *Hindoo Patriot* begins by complaining against the grant of Rs. 20,000 for a present to Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales on the score of the indigent state of the Municipality.

HINDOO PATRIOT,  
11th March 1905.

The Calcutta Municipal Budget.

It recommends the reduction of taxes and rates and urges the necessity of opening up the northern section of the town to prevent epidemic diseases, from which it perennially suffers. The excessive establishment charge is condemned and the journal suggests curtailment in the expenditure on buildings. The drainage system demands improvement, and a scheme should be adopted to prevent the streets being inundated after a heavy shower.

(g)—Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation.

369. The thanks of the student community, writes the *Bengalee*, are due to Mr. Manson for his graceful concession in running a suburban stopping train leaving Sealdah at 3.27 P.M., railway time, for their special convenience. It is hoped that the experiment will prove successful.

BENGALIAN,  
14th March 1905.

370. The *Indian Empire* draws the attention of the Railway authorities to a case in which some M. A. students of the Presidency College were the victims of railway mismanagement and *sulum*. They were abused and assaulted by durwans for entering the Sealdah railway maidan, and further insulted by a Eurasian caretaker employed by the Company, who ordered their prosecution for trespass and obstructing a railway servant in the discharge of his duties. The Magistrate acquitted them and complained about the trifling nature of the case.

INDIAN EMPIRE,  
10th March 1905.



(h)—General.

BENGALAH,  
12th March 1905.

371. A correspondent of the *Bengalee* writes from Daltonganj complaining of the autocratic doings of the Deputy Commissioner, Mr. Frank Lyall. His whimsical acts, the treatment of the Bhuya Saheb of Nagar Sotari, the arrest of Maulvi Sayyid Abdul Majid of Kuru Batooa, his unwarrantable prosecutions of Haranund Ojha and Saroda Sankar Babu, the well-known mukhtear of the town, have given rise to grave apprehensions as to the security of the liberties of peasants and local zamindars.

Much *eulum* is also caused by *rasad* being levied to please the *Barra Saheb* who is much given to *shikar*.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
10th March 1905.

372. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* justifies the action of the people in giving expression to their discontent in a constitutional way, for freedom of speech and liberty of the press were given in the interests of the rulers and the people, as they serve the purposes of safety-valves.

The Viceroy's utterances and acts have given the nation a right to complain, and they cannot be blamed if the impression is growing that the continuance of the present policy and unsympathetic attitude of Lord Curzon will cause further injury to the interests of the country. The privilege of criticising the Viceroy's administration is exercised in self-defence, and is always accompanied by a prayer that the Imperial Government be pleased to take such steps as it deems fit to improve this deplorable state of affairs.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
11th March 1905.

373. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes that the Town Hall meeting was attended by from three to four thousand men, among whom with few exceptions, were all the men of light and leading in Calcutta. There were no "professional agitators," and the orderly and respectful attitude of the audience reflects great credit on the Indian character.

The *Patrika* would have preferred the meeting to have taken place with the object of expressing thanks and gratitude, and if Lord Curzon had acted up to the assurance of sympathetic treatment which he gave the Indians in his first speech at Bombay, he would now have been the idol of the people.

INDIAN MIRROR,  
11th March 1905.

374. The public meeting at the Calcutta Town Hall is pronounced by the *Indian Mirror* to have been an unqualified success, and the most prejudiced critic could not have found any fault with the proceedings, which were characterised with the utmost moderation. The Presidential address was strong and forcible in reasoning and absolutely free from offensive remarks. A notable feature of the gathering was the presence of men who usually keep away from all kinds of agitation, and whom nothing short of a sense of national duty could have induced to cast aside their usual reserve.

Reverting to the subject of the Town Hall meeting, the *Indian Mirror* points to it as a clear index of the growing sense of nationality among the Indian people, and ascribes the latter to English education and culture. The promoters wisely disallowed all speeches except the Chairman's, and those who have heard or read Dr. Rash Behari Ghose's speech are bound to admit that no one could produce another, possessing all its merits. It was vigorous but not bitter, and effective without being offensive. It was also marked by an attitude of deep respect to the Viceroy.

INDIAN MIRROR,  
12th March 1905.

375. Reverting to the subject of the Town Hall meeting, the *Indian Mirror* points to it as a clear index of the growing sense of nationality among the Indian people, and ascribes the latter to English education and culture. The promoters wisely disallowed all speeches except the Chairman's, and those who have heard or read Dr. Rash Behari Ghose's speech are bound to admit that no one could produce another, possessing all its merits. It was vigorous but not bitter, and effective without being offensive. It was also marked by an attitude of deep respect to the Viceroy.

376. The *Bengalee* considers the Town Hall meeting to have been a representative gathering of the entire Indian community composed of Hindus, Muhammadans, Christians and others who had been brought together as a result of the reactionary policy of the Viceroy. The spirit displayed by the movement should convince the rulers that the people are determined to safeguard rights which have already been granted and to press for the continuation of a policy which shall associate them with the rulers in the government of the country.

BENGALAH,  
4th March 1905.

The Indians cannot permit themselves to be excluded from the administration under the plea of inefficiency, and Dr. Rash Behari Ghose effectively disposes of more than one of Lord Curzon's fallacious arguments.



377. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* considers that the effect of the public demonstration at the Town Hall should be to change the policy hitherto adopted by Lord Curzon, in favour of the policy of sympathy which he first promised.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
13th March 1905.

The Viceroy cannot totally ignore public opinion, which exists among both the educated and uneducated classes, without proving a relentless autocrat, who has no sympathy whatever for those entrusted to his care.

BENGALIEE,  
11th March 1905.

378. The *Bengalee* draws the attention of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to the conduct of Mr. Burrup, third Assistant Collector of Customs, Calcutta, who wrote on the leave application of an apprentice attached to his office—"Better kick him out." It is a very serious matter that such offensive language should have been deliberately recorded on paper, and that by a responsible officer like Mr. Burrup. A perusal of the papers will convince Sir Andrew Fraser that if anybody is to be "kicked out" of the Custom House, it may not be the poor apprentice.

379. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* ridicules some recent office orders passed by Captain Perkins, Pay Examiner, Military Accounts Department, altering the phraseology usually employed by clerks in writing drafts.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
12th March 1905.

Captain Perkins revised a draft put up by an assistant and went to the trouble of calculating the number of words which he had deleted and commented on the loss of time that had been involved. The result of his calculations has been set out in an office order which was read out three days consecutively to the office. While the journal would not question Captain Perkins's claim to a professorship of English literature in Timbuctoo or Terra Delfugo, it doubts his possession of an adequate knowledge of arithmetic, since all his calculations are shown to be wrong.

380. The same journal condemns the conduct of the officer in charge of the office of the Deputy Controller of the Postal Department at Delhi, who caused the objectionable portion of the Viceroy's Convocation address to be pasted on the office notice-board, for the humiliation of the Indian assistants.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
12th March 1905.

381. The *People* questions the statement of the Viceroy that public opinion does not exist in India on account of the masses being uneducated and refers His Excellency to the interest displayed by the people when the Age of Consent Act was passed. The uneducated masses take extreme interest in political matters, that concern them, but as in the instance cited, public opinion produces no effect on the Government when it has made up its mind to have its way.

PEOPLE,  
13th March 1905.

382. Commenting on Lord Curzon's order prohibiting the fining of clerks in Government offices, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* draws attention His Excellency's to the state of things prevailing in the office of the Comptroller, Post Office, where, since the advent of Mr. W. A. Kelly, the poor, ill-paid clerks are degraded even for petty offences committed the first time. Special mention is made of the case of a Bengali Assistant Superintendent who has lately been degraded for six months and his pay reduced by Rs. 10 for omitting to submit a register which is not prescribed in the new office Account Code and has practically been abolished.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
12th March 1905.

383. The *Bengalee* blames Lord Curzon for his delay in taking up the important question of the separation of judicial and executive functions, and expresses the hope that Mr. Herbert Roberts, M. P., will renew the question which he put to the Secretary of State on the subject.

BENGALIEE,  
14th March 1905.

384. Writing on the subject of Lord Curzon's unpopularity, the *Indian Mirror* states that his failure as a Viceroy has been publicly proclaimed in India and the Ministry in England will feel bound to give their attention to this fact. His methods of administration are disapproved of by a large section of the British public, and the verdict of the Indian people is supported by such able retired administrators as Lord Reay and Sir Henry Cotton.

INDIAN MIRROR,  
14th March 1905.



INDIAN MIRROR,  
16th March 1905.

385. The *Indian Mirror* urges the necessity of Indians establishing purity organisations in every quarter of the city, as there is a great deal of work for earnest labourers in this field. The matter vitally interests all sections of the European and Indian community, and any efforts put forth by His Honour in this direction will entitle him to the deepest gratitude of the people.

BENGALUR,  
17th March 1905.

386. The *Bengalee* draws a comparison between the administrations of Lord Curzon and Lord Ampthill, very much in favour of the latter, and points to the fact that the country had perfect rest and peace during the period he acted as Viceroy. The sentiments expressed by Lord Ampthill in his speech at the opening of the King Institute of Preventive Medicine in Madras are found to be very gratifying to the Hindus, and the journal considers that India would have been much happier to-day if he had been confirmed as Viceroy.

### III.—LEGISLATION.

AMRITA BASAR  
PATRIKA,  
13th March 1905.

387. Referring to the action of the Government in refusing to comply with the request embodied in two of the questions put by the Hon'ble Mr. Gokhale at the last meeting of the Supreme Council, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* considers that the privilege of interpellation is being withdrawn from "native" members, who are thus being rendered mere ornaments in Councils.

AMRITA BASAR  
PATRIKA,  
14th March 1905.

388. Commenting on the high-handed treatment accorded by Government to the questions put by Mr. Gokhale at the Supreme Council, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* advises the Hon'ble Member to ask Government for an explanation, by correspondence, as to the law under which the replies to his questions were refused. The advice and assistance of representative Indians are sought to add weight to the deliberations of the Government, but the contempt with which their opinions are treated and the scant courtesy they receive, will not encourage such men to seek seats in Councils.

The journal compares the present state of affairs with the experiment of creating an Opposition with elected members bound hand and foot, which was tried long ago in the Khedivian Parliament, and found wanting.

### IV.—NATIVE STATES.

AMRITA BASAR  
PATRIKA,  
11th March 1905.

389. Commenting on the facts connected with the so-called voluntary abdication of the *ex*-Maharaja Holkar, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* questions the truth of the statement that pressure was exercised on him by the representative of the King-Emperor. The incident is of the gravest importance, for no Indian Prince will consider himself secure if one in the position of Holkar can be so unceremoniously deprived of his throne. A contradiction is thus needed to restore confidence in the head of the Government of India, especially as the story in the *Bombay Advocate* disagrees with the official version.

The plea of "failing health" is not borne out by the fact that the *ex*-Holkar proceeded to Delhi and lived there several days in biting cold in the depth of winter in a tent, without dying or getting ill. The *Pioneer* explained the matter differently and styled the Holkar a bad ruler, whose "waywardness" was the cause of his downfall.

Indian Princes have certain rights secured to them in inviolable treaties, which the British Government cannot trample down without breaking solemn pledges. The charge of treason was never preferred against the late ruler of Indore, and if he really misgoverned the State, a commission of enquiry should have been appointed to reveal his misdeeds.

The pledge of carefully maintaining the rights and privileges of the State has now been violated by the reduction of the State troops to less than half their number. This affects the honour and dignity of the ruler and is all the more unjustifiable as the young Prince is yet a ward of the Government.



390. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* disapproves of the free gift of land made by the Patiala Darbar to the Simla-Kalka Railway Company, especially since the Maharaja is a minor Land in Native States.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
12th March 1905.

and has no hand in the administration of his State. The journal finds that free gifts are made generally by Native States when European Companies demand concessions, and the Government looks on approvingly.

It also enquires the circumstances under which Jakko Hill, on which Simla stands, was transferred by the Patiala State to the British Government, and refers to a rumour that Chail, another hill residence of the Maharaja, is required by the Punjab Government.

391. The *Bengalee* quotes several instances of European adventurers being employed in the service of Native Princes and of European manufacturers and contractors being A growing scandal in Native States.

BENGALIEE,  
17th March 1905.

favoured with large orders, and regrets that the admonition of the Viceroy in this connection has not produced the desired effect on Native Princes.

A recent case, reported from a State in Northern India, is that of a European gentleman, lately a photographer at Simla, who has turned "House Decorator" and secured a contract for 14 lakhs of rupees to decorate the Nawab's Palace. His son has gone to a well-known State in Rajputana to execute a commission to decorate the Durbar Hall there.

#### VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

392. Commenting on Sir Henry Cotton's address at the National Liberal Club, the *Bengalee* commends his policy of educating English public opinion in Indian affairs and considers that he is destined to serve India still more conspicuously in the future.

BENGALIEE,  
16th March 1905.

Sir Henry Cotton at the  
National Liberal Club.

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENERAL  
OF POLICE, L. P.

WRITERS' BUILDINGS,  
The 18th March 1905.

F. C. DALY,

Asst. to the Insp.-General of Police, L. P.



